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*'Unless he is restrained I shall suffer psychological pressure and become ill'*

## Princess will take fight to High Court

By EMMA WILKINS

**INSIDE**

THE Princess of Wales is prepared to give evidence in the High Court to support her claim that she has been psychologically abused by a freelance photographer.

Her commitment to enter the witness box came as Martin Stenning, a former despatch rider who took up photography four months ago, denied that he had harassed the Princess and said he would contest an injunction which bans him from approaching her.

The Princess has been warned that she faces cross-examination on her psychological condition and relationship with the media amid claims that she manipulates her own press coverage.

Despite the risks, she is keen to give evidence that Mr Stenning's alleged harassment has left her frightened, tearful and a virtual prisoner in her own palace, according to friends.

The High Court would provide an appropriate public platform for the Princess to explain how photographers make ordinary life impossible, sources said.

Should the case go to a full hearing, the Princess would become the first member of the Royal family to enter the witness box since the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, gave evidence in 1891.

He was supporting a friend who had brought a claim of slander over an accusation

that he cheated in a game of baccarat. In 1910, the future George V went to court in a case against a journalist who had accused him of bigamy, but did not give evidence.

The Princess was granted an emergency court order on Wednesday which restricts Mr Stenning from approaching within 300 yards of her, communicating with her, and harassing or interfering with her safety, security or well-being.

In her affidavit, the Princess claimed that Mr Stenning's relentless attentions left her suffering acute distress. "I constantly feel on edge and am unable to go about my daily affairs without feeling anxious and stressed," she said.

I genuinely believe the actions of the Defendant (Stenning) are calculated to cause me harm. I fear that unless he is restrained I shall suffer undue psychological pressure and become ill."

Mr Stenning, 36, the son of an estate agent from Godalming, Surrey, frequently trails the Princess around London on his motorcycle. She has grown increasingly frustrated by his actions and has recently seized his ignition keys, cameras and crash helmet, the Princess's solicitor.

"My client does not want to

make a nuisance of himself but he does want to earn a living. I have no reason to believe that the Princess is unreasonable. I understand her worries. She is under the glare of the media and sometimes perhaps she over-reacts. But she has that role and has to live with it," he said.

If he could not reach a compromise and the case went to a full hearing, Mr Birnberg would instruct counsel to cross-examine the Princess. "I would love to do it myself as I am not averse to a bit of advocacy, but solicitors can't

appear in the High Court yet," Mr Birnberg, whose partner, Gareth Pearce, was the solicitor acting for the Guildford Four, said Mr Stenning would welcome financial support from a newspaper. "He is not on legal aid and he is open to offers. He does not have great resources."

An affidavit containing Mr Stenning's response to the Princess's allegations will be delivered to the offices of Mishcon de Reya, the Princess's solicitors, early next week and an intermediating

hearing will then be held at the High Court. The court could extend the restraining order until a full hearing in the new legal term, which begins in October.

Mr Stenning elected himself a member of the paparazzi after seeing other photographers at work and deciding it was a fast and easy way to make money (writes Kathryn Knight)

After several years working as a motorcycle despatch rider for the London-based firm Addison Lee, he struck up conversations with photogra-

phers in Marylebone, where the Princess visits her osteopath.

He handed in his notice and has spent the last four months in a pursuit of the Princess that other photographers say borders on the obsessive. However, the dream of easy money does not appear to have paid off. While Mr Stenning claims to have made £10,000 in the last month from his pictures, home for the last three months has been a shabby £50-a-week guesthouse in a run-down part of London Bridge.

**Desperate students on college doorsteps**

By DAVID CHARTER  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of students with disappointing A-level grades arrived on university doorsteps yesterday to plead face-to-face with admissions tutors after more places than usual had been filled early.

The squeeze on vacancies by this year's best-ever A-level pass rate has encouraged youngsters to travel to try to gain an advantage over telephone callers to course hotlines.

An unprecedented 66 per cent of all university places had been confirmed yesterday, leaving far fewer than usual available through clearing — the process of recruiting those without the A-level grades required for their first or second-choice universities.

One mother drove her daughter on a 400-mile round trip from Chelmsford in Essex to Leeds University where they found a science course place. A male student who drove from London to Leeds seeking an arts course was not so lucky. All those places had been filled by first-choice applicants gaining good grades when the A-level pass rate went up 1.8 percentage points to 85.8 per cent on Thursday.

Medical schools have been turning away very well-qualified students. Angela Millin, admissions officer at Southampton, said: "We filled all 145 places for medicine through conditional offers, and within hours of the results coming out we were turning away callers with four grade As."

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas) has advised students that a personal appearance might advance their case because they can be on hand for any interviews. Universities yesterday said their hotlines were "manic" as

*Continued on page 2, col 3*

*Letters page 19*



Photographer Martin Stenning says that he "is denying all the Princess's allegations" of harassment



## Shares hit record as Britain goes in black

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE London stock market soared to a record high yesterday as investors cheered the first good news on the Government's finances for many months.

The FTSE 100 index of leading shares jumped 35.5 points to close at 3,872.9. This caps a very strong run in which the index has risen more than 200 points over the past four weeks.

One trigger for the buying was news of bumper tax receipts which pushed the Government strongly into the black in July. The Public Sector Borrowing Requirement — which measures the differences between receipts and spending — showed a surplus for the Government of

£1.66 billion, far bigger than the City had been expecting.

The good news on tax receipts came across the board with income tax, VAT and corporation tax all up strongly in July. A majority of City voices warned against euphoria and argued that the Chancellor still has little room for a tax give-away in November's Budget. Even the Treasury said that yesterday's figures do not wipe out concern about a black hole in VAT receipts which seemed to open up earlier this year and which is even now being investigated by officials.

But Jonathan Loynes, economist at HSBC Markets, said that tax cuts were firmly back on the agenda after yesterday's figures.

In the black, page 23  
Market report, page 20

## Girl reunited with mother as Morocco jails drug father

FROM MARIE HUBAND  
IN RABAT

AN EIGHT-YEAR-old British girl was reunited last night with her mother but saw her father start a five-year prison sentence for drug smuggling. Both her parents had been arrested a week ago in the Moroccan city of Tangier when 440lb of cannabis was found in their caravanette.

Widowed Victoria Richards spent a week in the care of the British consul in Tangier after watching police believed to have been acting on a tip-off, arrest her parents. David and Jill Richards, at Tangier port after finding cannabis worth £250,000 hidden inside their vehicle.

Officials at Tangier court said yesterday that Richards, who lives in Alnwick, Northumberland, would spend the next five years in jail. His wife

was acquitted and expected to be freed at 9pm yesterday. The five-year sentence is relatively lenient considering the quantity of cannabis involved.

A spokesman for the British Consul said: "If this sentence is true it is a great decision for Mrs Richards. It is also good news for Mr Richards because his sentence could have been far heavier indeed."

Richards' five-year jail term seen as lenient

## Heatwave to reach 90F at weekend

By ROBIN YOUNG

TEMPERATURES over most of Britain are likely to approach 90F (32C) this weekend. When slight fog clears this morning, almost the whole country should be left basking in sunshine, with temperatures up to 28C.

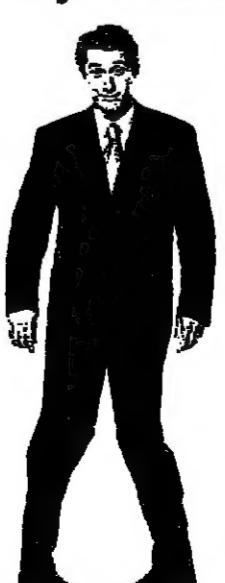
Tomorrow a further rise, to 30C, is expected and on Monday 31C or more could be reached. The heatwave will reach all parts except north-western Scotland and Northern Ireland, where it will be cloudy. Thunderstorms are likely to bring temperatures down again on Tuesday.

The worst thing was that it got Vicky involved in something she should never have been exposed to. But when she and Jill return home it will be forgotten about in no time. It will not stop me speaking to Jill. With Dave in prison she is going to need all the support she can get."

Forecast, page 22

On Eurostar, there are many comfy seats and toilets

My research shows that this is not true of family cars



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Europe just got closer so don't store your passport

## Refs have last word as Babel kicks off at home

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

REFEREES will shoulder a fresh burden when the football season kicks off today — one of language. After the glut of summer transfers, teams in the FA Carling Premiership will feature players from 35 countries.

England's Premier League has become a multi-cultural haven, with players from Croatia and South Africa to Greece and Russia, from the Czech Republic and Norway to Colombia, Senegal and Israel. West Ham United

boasts the most cosmopolitan line-up. with a ten-strong league of nations at Upton Park and barely a Cockney sparrow in sight. When the goals fly in, the players will celebrate, or remonstrate, in Czech, Danish, Romanian, Portuguese, Serbo-Croat and Finnish. Slaven Bilic, the Croat defender, also speaks French and German. Only Australians, Ulstermen and a lone Scot supposedly share a common language with the club's few Englishmen.

Yet the Premiership's 19 referees,

that much maligned breed in any tongue, have hardly a second language between them. However, they insist it will not be a problem.

David Elleray, England's most senior referee, speaks French "un petit peu". He said: "I don't think any of our other refs speak any languages. I think I'm the only one, but that's not really a problem. "We have a series of symbols and signs that will get our message across and, anyway, a lot of the players speak English or at least understand it."

Thirteen of the 19 are present or former referees or linesmen for Fifa, the sport's world governing body, and have refereed around the globe.

More concern to Elleray is many foreign players' penchant for theatrical tumbling over when fouled. "We'll need to keep an eye on it," Elleray observed. "I think it's a case of them having to adapt to the English game rather than us adapting to them."

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on Euro 96: from Gazzetta's goal to Southgate's shoot-out misery



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## EDUCATION

## AFTER A-LEVELS

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FRIDAY The state schools whose students scored the highest A-levels

SATURDAY Versace for the hip - Magazine

In her own words, the Princess tells of confrontations and private fears

## He always follows me. I am a prisoner in my own home

THE affidavit says: "I Diana, Princess of Wales, of Kensington Palace, London, make Oath and Say as follows. The matters to which I now depose are either within my knowledge and are true, or are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

"I am being persistently harassed and pestered by the Defendant. Whenever I leave Kensington Palace during the day, the Defendant trails me. He usually waits near the entrance to Kensington Palace where he can see which way I turn when I leave home. He then follows me on his blue Suzuki motorcycle.

"He always drives his motorcycle as close as he possibly can to my motor car, even if this means travelling fast through red traffic lights at intersections. He seems to know my every movement.

"I first caught sight of the Defendant as I was leaving a medical appointment early in 1996. He was on his motorcycle waiting near the building I was in. He was carrying an Instamatic camera and appeared dishevelled and grubby.

"I set out below a catalogue of particular incidents involving the Defendant which to my great distress I vividly recollect. I do not have any police protection. Therefore I have no record of exact times and dates of these incidents. They have, however, all occurred in the last six to eight months. "On many occasions this year while I have been out with my children and their police protection officers, the Defendant has approached me. On one occasion he was particularly aggressive and shouted abuse at me.

"I explained to the police officers that the Defendant had been harassing me for some time. They physically removed him and told him to stay away. However, this did not deter the Defendant. The next time I left Kensington Palace, he pursued me again. "I have in frustration shouted, calling him a stalker. He claimed that he was just a photographer, not a stalker. This does not seem credible. I have never seen in the National Press any of the numerous photographs he appears continuously to take of me.

"As a desperate attempt to prevent the Defendant harassing me I have in recent weeks grabbed his ignition key, a camera, binoculars, a flash and an invoice book from the motorcycle. I have subsequently returned this property to the local police station. Nevertheless the Defendant continues to appear every time I leave Kensington Palace and follows me wherever I go.

"Today the Defendant followed me home from the Harbour Club. He yelled at me: 'You've stashed me up.' I was alone and very unnerved.

"I responded that I did not know what he was talking about.

"I am informed by Commander Bob Marsh, Head of Diplomatic and Royalty Protection, the Defendant has a long history of violent behaviour and a number of criminal convictions recorded against him. Some of these I am informed and believe are linked to 'road rage' incidents such as smashing a motorist's windscreen with a concrete block.

"The Defendant continues to display aggression towards me. His motivation is unclear but his abnormal and irrational behaviour make me feel very scared. It has come to the point where my daily routine has to be altered to avoid coming into contact with the

has been to shout obscenities at them.

"This display of aggression scares me and the people nearby who witness it. They subsequently back off, leaving me on my own with him. The Defendant only ever goes away when I am reduced to tears. Even then, it is only temporary.

"As a desperate attempt to prevent the Defendant harassing me I have in recent weeks grabbed his ignition key, a camera, binoculars, a flash and an invoice book from the motorcycle. I have subsequently returned this property to the local police station. Nevertheless the Defendant continues to appear every time I leave Kensington Palace and follows me wherever I go.

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"The Defendant continues to display aggression towards me. His motivation is unclear but his abnormal and irrational behaviour make me feel very scared. It has come to the point where my daily routine has to be altered to avoid coming into contact with the

permanently damage my health. The Defendant is ever present and it is only when I break down in tears that he gives me some measure of peace only to begin his pursuit again.

"I constantly feel on edge and am unable to go about my daily affairs without feeling anxious and stressed. The Defendant's behaviour has affected my ability to live in a happy manner. I have had to cancel many engagements.

"I acknowledge the unavailability of being continuously followed and photographed as a consequence of my status and duties. However, I genuinely believe that the actions of the Defendant are calculated to cause me harm. I fear that unless he is restrained, I shall suffer undue psychological pressure and become ill."



Photographers watch for the Princess yesterday

Defendant. For example, I have recently had to resort in borrowing other people's cars or crouching on the seat in the back of my chauffeur-driven cars. I have had to cancel many engagements because at times I have felt too distraught to leave my home.

"The Defendant's behaviour has affected my public and private life to the extent that I have left a prisoner in my home. I always leave home with an acute sense of anxiety. Sometimes I do not leave at all. I can no longer drive out of the gates at Kensington Palace without fearing what the Defendant might do to me next. His behaviour has prevented me from enjoying family occasions with my sons.

"I believe that there is a grave risk that the cumulative effect of this continued and unrestrained harassment will

Pack of poachers goes to ground

By JOE JOSEPH

TYPICAL Diana waits years for those pesky paparazzi to drift away from her Kensington Palace doorstep, then they all disappear at once.

Showing the cunning that has turned them into the Princess of Wales's constant shadow, that posse of gun-for-hire photographers who can pay for their second homes in Florida by taking pictures of her vanished yesterday when Fleet Street's regulars came to snap the men who take snaps of her.

Then the crowds outside the usual Diana-spotting arenas—Kensington Palace, the Chelsea Harbour Club—swelled further as television crews came to film the snappers who had come to photograph the paparazzi who take the pictures of the Princess. They had to content themselves with photographing and filming each other.

"Here, leave it out!" shouts one of the snappers at the focused lens of a rival from another newspaper. "I'm supposed to be taking pictures, not having them taken of me. This always happens! Di complains about the paparazzi. our desks send us down here, and there's only other news photographers here."

Waiting round means little to the hard-core paparazzi who make following Diana a full-time job. Five or six tail her at any one time, using good contacts, quick reflexes. The patience you need to watch grass grow, aluminium ladders, mobile phones, luck and long leases.

Most have three cameras around their necks so they can "really hose her down", as they put it, and turn a five-second appearance into 10 negatives.

Why do grown men do this? Because the "paps" dream of snapping Diana kissing a new man in her life; such a photograph would be worth a fortune.

Yesterday the Fleet Street photographers and television crews raced from Kensington Palace to Harbour Club to a coffee bar near the palace but neither the Princess nor her constellation of flashlit paparazzi were anywhere to be seen. Had a paparazzo actually made an appearance he might well have had grounds for an injunction against the Fleet Street pack for harassment.

## Stalker jailed for harassing TV soap actress

BY JOANNA BALE

A MAN was jailed for three years yesterday for stalking a television actress and threatening to kill her boyfriend.

Neil Ritchens sent abusive letters to Rhian Jones for 18 months before turning up at BBC studios wielding a knife with an eight-inch blade.

When security guards called the police he told them that he wanted to stab Miss Jones's boyfriend to death. Cardiff Crown Court was told.

Ritchens's obsession with the 25-year-old actress began

with normal fan letters to her after he saw her in a Welsh-language soap opera *Pobol y Cwm* (People of the Valley) when it was shown on BBC2. When she had a baby by her real-life boyfriend, he began sending hate mail.

Christopher Williams, for the prosecution, said: "The defendant told her he wanted to start a relationship with the actress and that he was obsessed with her and hated her boyfriend."

The court was told that the actress, who plays a mechanic in the soap, ignored the letters.

Ritchens, 26, from Bath, then went to the BBC studios in Cardiff but was arrested. While on remand he visited the studios again with a knife and had to be disarmed.

Judge Gibson told Ritchens, who admitted afoul: "There is a risk that you will cause serious harm to members of the public. The only way I can protect the public is to give the maximum sentence. It is a very limited protection but it's the best I can do under the law."

Miss Jones is now living at a secret address.



Neil Ritchens wrote to Rhian Jones, seeking a meeting and threatening to kill her boyfriend

## Desperate students chase few remaining university places

Continued from page 1  
students bombarded them with inquiries before Monday's official start of clearing. Manchester Metropolitan University has had 47,000 calls since the A-level results came out.

Nottingham University, which is unlikely to advertise any vacancies next week, had up to 100 visits from candidates yesterday despite being oversubscribed in almost all course

areas. Several students called in at Southampton University straight after receiving their grades, although tutors could do little more than discuss possible vacancies.

Scottish students bearing their Higher results have called at Edinburgh, although again places were few and far between and the university is not planning to advertise any vacancies next week.

Jess Enderby, a UCAS spokesman, said 192,178 first-choice places were confirmed yesterday, leaving fewer than 100,000 open. Many of these will be taken up with accepted second-choice offers, leaving fewer than the 41,000 available through clearing last year. Many universities were confirming places for students who just missed target grades rather than go into clearing.

Mr Enderby said: "Things should slow down from now on because all the easy decisions have been taken. It is certainly all happening ahead of last year."

Joyce Lewis, for Southampton University, said: "This year we are so busy we are going against the usual trend in mathematics and are filling up our courses there very quickly. We could do with more telephone lines."

Vanessa Bridge, of Leeds University, said yesterday: "Some people are so distraught when they phone up they cannot remember the course they applied for."

The Times' higher education course listings service starts on Monday with up-to-the-minute details of vacancies.

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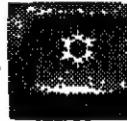
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"The effect could be obtained by travelling between Arizona and Zaire with the instrument case open"

## Violin-maker finds way to emulate Stradivari

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

A PHYSICIST turned violin-maker believes that he has found a way to make new violins sound like old ones. Alan Beavitt puts his violins through a repeat cycle of damp and dry conditions, simulating in a few months the natural changes that he believes are responsible for making older violins sound better.

The results have impressed string-players. Simon Rowland-Jones, the viola soloist, says: "I am astonished at the difference. The previously robust tone has been transformed, as though it were suddenly a couple of hundred years older."

Why older violins sound better has long been a mystery. The best of all, made by Antonio Stradivari in Cremona, Italy, 300 years ago, have a tone that other makers have tried and failed to match.

Many special treatments have been proposed, from the use of silicate solutions to



Beavitt: physicist who became full-time violin-maker

stiffen the wood by soaking it in sea water or infecting it with bacteria to match the Strad sound. The old idea that it was entirely a function of the varnish he used has largely been abandoned.

Mr Beavitt made his first violin as a child but was persuaded that science was a more secure career. After working as a research physicist in Australia and Britain he finally moved to the High-

lands of Scotland and became a full-time violin-maker in 1984. His findings are published today in the magazine *The Strad*, widely read by string-players.

He argues that the changes in the sound of a violin over time are the result of slow changes, or "creep", in the wood. The process leads to a gradual stiffening of the wood which improves the playing quality and depends on regu-

lar changes in humidity. Mr Beavitt reproduces the effect in two ways.

He either puts his violin in a sealed container and controls the humidity with saturated salt solutions, or he pumps air of controlled humidity through rubber pipes into the interior of the violin.

The weight of the instrument increases in high humidity as it takes up water and falls again in low humidity as it loses it. Each complete cycle takes ten days and Mr Beavitt says that no further improvement is perceptible after six cycles.

This is not a magic process for turning a frog violin into a prime, he says. "If a violin is built like a trade fiddle it is likely to sound like a 19th-century trade fiddle after conditioning."

There is nothing unnatural about the process. The effect could be obtained by travelling repeatedly between Arizona and Zaire, staying a few weeks at each location with the violin case open. The work-



Antonio Stradivari 300 years ago created a tone in his violins that other makers have tried and failed to match

shop method saves on time, trouble and aviation fuel."

Tests carried out by staff at the Royal Northern College of Music suggest that Mr Beavitt might be on to something. They were asked to try a new violin that had been conditioned, but never played. They

were impressed. "There is something very rounded and mature in the sound that belies its new and unplayed nature," said Roger Bigley. "I was impressed by the power, clarity and warmth of the sound across its whole range."

Mr Beavitt suspects that his

finding explains why violins kept in controlled humidity in museum cases lose their quality. "We have the intriguing possibility that a violin needs some humidity cycling to maintain its quality," he says. He now uses the method with all the violins he makes, and would like other makers to try it. He finds all the previous explanations of the beauty of the Strad unconvincing. "People have said that it's the varnish, but some of the best-sounding ones have no varnish," he says.

## Late gift will keep picture in Britain

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH AND DALYA ALBERGE

A LATE pledge from an anonymous benefactor has stopped a 17th-century Italian masterpiece from being exported to America. The National Galleries of Scotland announced with "extreme delight" yesterday that Guercino's 8ft by 10ft painting *Erminia Finding the Wounded Tancred* would stay in Britain.

The Galleries had until midnight on Thursday to raise the £2.04 million asking price. They were £17,500 short as the deadline approached, but Timothy Clifford, Galleries director, told a press conference yesterday that by 11am on Thursday a donor had pledged to make up any shortfall.

It will now hang in the National Galleries in Edinburgh, where it has been on

show for two weeks, after cleaning and restoration work. Mr Clifford said: "The support has been marvellous."

The painting had been bought for £3.5 million by the Getty Museum in California. After negotiations which allowed for tax advantages, an adjusted price of £2.04 million was agreed with the sellers, the Howard family of Castle Howard in Yorkshire. A month-long appeal was launched. The Heritage Lottery Fund gave £1.5 million.

It is the second time that Mr Clifford has helped to prevent the Getty Museum from acquiring an art work from Britain. Last summer Canova's *Three Graces* became co-owned by the National Galleries and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.



Saved: the Guercino sold by Howard family

## NHS rejects octuplet woman's funding plea

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE woman who is expecting octuplets after taking a fertility drug has been refused health service money to pay for her treatment by a leading obstetrician in London.

Mandy Allwood has been told that she could be treated just as well near her home in the Midlands as by Kypro Nicolaides, who is based at King's College Hospital. She was referred to Professor Nicolaides, who is an expert in selective abortion of multiple pregnancies, although she has said she wants to keep all the babies.

Miss Allwood, who has

been offered a six-figure sum for her story by the *News of the World*, became pregnant after taking medication supplied privately, rather than on a health service prescription.

The Solihull Health Authority, which buys treatment for patients in its catchment area, has refused to authorise payment after her request was considered by a committee of senior officers. A statement said that several local hospitals were suitable.

Miss Allwood and her boyfriend, Paul Hudson, both live in Solihull. She already has one child.

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How green is their alley: Lial Bolens, left, and Chris McQuade before and after the transformation of Methley Terrace. The street will come alive with egg and spoon races, brass bands and circus acts

## Street becomes village green as terrace turfs out the traffic

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE ROAD between two rows of back-to-back Victorian houses has been transformed into a village green for a summer fete today. The grey road surface of Methley Terrace, in Leeds, disappeared yesterday under 800 square metres of turf to be transformed into Methley Green for two days. It and the neighbour-

boring streets of Methley Drive, Lane and Place will come alive with egg and spoon races, brass bands, circus acts and barbecues. At night "the Green" will become an open-air cinema, with the film *Strictly Ballroom* projected onto the whitewashed end wall of the terrace.

Adrian Sinclair, one of the organisers, said: "A lot of people

want The Methleys, as the streets round here are called, to be a greener place, with safer places for children to play and slower traffic. We thought we'd try making one road a field instead of tarmac."

"Children have offered to water the grass regularly, but because of the hosepipe ban they'll have to use watering cans."

The £1,500 cost of the turf is being met by Leeds City Council's

leisure department. Shell's Better Britain project and the pressure group Transport 2000. The project also has the backing of the police. Afterwards the grass, which is being laid by Inturf, which has sold at Wembley, will be sold at 70p a square metre to make lawns for the residents.

Derek Edwards, the managing director of Inturf, said: "Our sister company did something

similar on the Champs Elysées, but nothing like this in this country. It will be fine, football-pitch grass, laid in rolls by a special machine. I have told them to moisten it so that it sticks better, but if it's hot, dry, sunny and windy there could be problems on Saturday afternoon."

The Methleys have a reputation for devising grand schemes for

their activities. They first tried the open-air cinema last August, when 300 locals brought out their sofas and chairs to watch *The Commitments*. Four local girls acted as usherettes complete with torches and name badges, handing out free popcorn. The 40ft-high "screen" was tastefully decorated with flowerboxes and two children gave up their bedroom so that the projector could

be positioned on a DIY work-bench and pointed out of their window at the gable end opposite. Mr Sinclair, 33, said: "It was brilliant. The weather had been so sunny that it seemed the logical thing to do. We barricaded the road off at either end and it was just like the real thing. Some curious motorists who drove up to the wall parked their cars and joined us."



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## Today's little girls have yesterday's views on top jobs

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE daughters of post-feminist Britain are turning into a generation of traditionalists, a survey disclosed yesterday.

Girls aged seven to ten dream of a white wedding and believe the role of a parent is just as important as the job of President Clinton or a firefighter. They want to give money to charity, save for a rainy day and heal the sick.

Girls rate the caring professions highly, with 17 per cent hoping to be a veterinary surgeon, 13 per cent a nurse and 10 per cent a teacher, according to the survey of 600 girls by Clark's, the shoemakers. Very few wanted to be a journalist, waitress, librarian or politician.

Dressing up as a bride is the favourite playtime activity followed by acting like a princess, a pop star or the Disney character Pocahontas. More than seven in ten said they had donated some of their pocket money to charity in the past year.

Mathematics and art were the joint top subjects at school for 27 per cent of girls; only 7 per cent put science at the top of their list and only 2 per cent rated computing their favour-

ite topic. French, with just 1 per cent of votes, came joint bottom of the preferred subject league, along with technology and religion.

Doctors and nurses came out top of the most-important job list, closely followed by the Queen and the Prince Minister.

A Clark's spokesman said:

"It seems that today's modern career women, conscious of the compromises they made in combining the pressures of work and family life, are raising a generation of old-fashioned home-makers."

Who has the world's most important job? The Pope and God each got just 2 per cent of the vote — 1 per cent below Virgin boss Richard Branson.

When asked what super-powers they would give themselves, the vast majority of the girls opted for a cross between Mother Teresa and supergirl, "flying round the globe healing the sick and stopping wars."

Traditional rollerskates were nominated best toy by one in two girls, followed by soft animals and Sindy. One in five girls said the TV remote control was their favourite toy.

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As the peat bogs go to pot the national grid looks for a boost from non-narcotic hemp

## Irish have high hopes for cannabis, fuel of the future

BY AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

CANNABIS will light up thousands of Irish homes by replacing Irish peat as a vital fuel to generate electricity. A fast-growing strain is said to be a perfect new crop for European farmers.

Scientists in Carlow, south-west of Dublin, have been growing cannabis in a secret area for the past four years, testing its properties as an energy source to burn in power stations. Dr James Burke, who has grown three acres under strict licence from the Department of Justice, said the plant flourished in Irish conditions, growing up to 14ft high.

The crop is a strain developed in France for agricultural use. Called *Cannabis sativa L* — also known as hemp — it is essentially the same plant smoked by drug users, but modern science has removed the narcotic element.

"There is no possibility of everyone getting stoned from the fumes of a power station because the cannabis has no chemical constituent," said Dr Burke, who works at Teagasc, the agriculture and food development authority part-funded by the Government.

"Despite the name, it bears

no resemblance to the other plant. You would have to smoke five or six acres of the stuff we are growing to get a hit."

The plant has a slightly minty smell. Strong fibres inside the stem burn as well as wood and yield similar energy levels, but the cannabis is easier and faster to grow than wood and dries out more quickly. A typical growing season lasts six months, from April to September.

The fibres can also be used to make fine paper, canvas, shies or car bumpers. Ireland intends to be the first country to use it to generate electricity.

The Government is holding an international competition to find the best design for a biomass power plant, which would burn cannabis, waste paper and chicken droppings. The plant could be in operation by 1999, generating electricity for more than 30,000 homes — 1 per cent of Ireland's total energy needs.

Dr Burke said that *Cannabis sativa* would be a perfect alternative crop for farmers curtailed from producing more food for the European Union. At £190 an acre, it is £50 cheaper to produce than

wheat or barley. Ireland's planned use of cannabis is a far cry from the staple fuel of bog peat which has warmed Irish houses for generations. But the bog is running out. There are 1.2 million hectares of bog in Ireland, 8 per cent of them owned by *Bord na Mona*, the national peat cultivator. Peat accounts for 12 per cent of the fuel used to generate electricity, fourth to coal, gas and oil. *Bord na Mona* says it has sufficient resources for another 30 years, after which its contribution to the national grid would dwindle.

Humans have been using hemp to make ropes and baskets for at least 6,000 years. The plant is widely grown in India and throughout Eastern Europe. Its main use is as a source of fibre used for twine, rope and string, and for coarse sacking and canvas. The plant, can grow as tall as 10ft. In dense cultivation it usually reaches 7ft to 10ft.

The seeds are a source of oil used to make paints, varnishes, soaps and, more commonly, birdseed. The narcotic chemicals are usually found in the leaves and blossoms.

Dr Burke with his thriving crop. "You would have to smoke five or six acres of the stuff to get a hit," he says



### NEWS IN BRIEF

## £10m haul of cocaine on ship

Cocaine with an estimated street value of £10 million was found hidden in the gymnasium ceiling of a cargo ship, the *Front Guide*, docked in Moneypoint, Co Clare. The cocaine was in 38 packages, each weighing about 1kg. The Swedish-owned ship had been shadowed by an Irish naval vessel. A Garda spokesman said: "It is a clear possibility that it was destined for other areas of western Europe."

### Post strike days

The Communication Workers' Union extended strike action over pay and working practices in the Royal Mail. Sorting office and delivery workers will be called out on strike on August 31 and September 1 as well as August 30 and September 2.

### Derby nostalgia

Racing silks worn by Lester Piggott on his first Derby victory on *Never Say Die* in 1954 are to be sold for about £500 in an auction devoted to racing at Sotheby's in London in November. Piggott, then 18, was the Derby's youngest winning jockey.

### Noise fine for BA

British Airways was fined £2,600 after Concorde exceeded the permitted noise level at Manchester Airport. It was the fourth time in three months that the airport has fined the company for Concorde breaking the limits when taking off.

### 'Rab' actor dies

The actor Eric Cullen, who played *Wee Burney* in the BBC television comedy *Rab C. Nesbit*, died in hospital in East Kilbride after emergency surgery for abdominal pain. Cullen, 31, appeared in the role of Rab's son, *Wee Burney*.

### Sound purchase

An ultrasound system launched in Britain yesterday will enable doctors to make speedier diagnoses of more diseases. The machine, made by Acuson of California, doubles the amount of information available from existing systems.

## Drug addict doctor speaks out to help sick colleagues

By ANDREW PIERCE  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT



Froggatt advised Thatcher

A FAMILY doctor who was an architect of the Government's health reforms is to speak publicly for the first time about his descent into drug addiction and his conviction for heroin offences. Clive Froggatt, 48, a confidante of four successive health secretaries, including Kenneth Clarke, will bare his soul at a medical conference on sick doctors next month.

Dr Froggatt, who was suspended from the medical register after he received a 12-month suspended sentence in March, has not worked for two years. The one-time pillar of his local community has been forced to

sell his home in Cheltenham; his wife, Paula, has returned to nursing to support the family.

The former Tory county councillor, who was brought in to advise on health reforms after meeting Margaret Thatcher at Chequers, will give a graphic account of his illness at St George's Hospital medical school in London. It is thought to be one of the first conferences of its kind on the plight of sick doctors. A health minister is expected to attend and will hear that, according to research for the British Medical Association, up to 14,000 doctors are addicted to alcohol or drugs.

Dr Froggatt, who hopes to return to clinical practice, accepted the speaking invitation to try to encourage other doctors who are battling against addiction to seek help.

He said: "What is it like to be a sick doctor? Bloody awful. For me, my wife, children, parents, extended family and friends. Professionally I died every day as I deceived my respected colleagues and exposed my patients at the very least to less than my best attention."

Dr Froggatt, who was convicted at Bristol Crown Court of obtaining heroin by deception after forging prescriptions, will call for a national treatment programme specifically tailored to the needs of doctors. He will also disclose that he was treated by three psychiatrists who failed to prevent him practising at his Cheltenham surgery and did not register

him, as the BMA ethics code demands, as an addict. "It was misplaced loyalty," he said.

"The worst time was when I was using and practising at the same time. The preoccupation with obtaining the drug and avoiding discovery took over and one led to another. It was a disgusting process of self-humiliation and self-deceit."

As each day passed Dr Froggatt, who blamed criticism of the health reforms for his addiction, expected to be exposed but could not halt the deception.

"I was the main problem, not the drugs. The ever-present tendency to deny the truth has the most corrosive effect.

"It prevented me from helping

myself and seeking help from others while I continued to sink deeper and deeper into my addiction. Not the love of my family, nor the knowledge I had acquired professionally, nor the clear possibility of serious punishment affected me when I was using. By then, in my own view, I was utterly unworthy."

Dr Froggatt, who has received a number of invitations to speak about his fall from grace, is still under medical supervision. "Doctors do not ask for help themselves, only for others," he said.

He was once a frontrunner for the post of honorary secretary of the Royal College of General Practitioners, but his partisan support for the Tory party cost him the job.

## Parents approve DNA tests for schoolboys

By JOANNA BALE

THE parents of five schoolboys facing questions from French police in connection with the rape and murder of 13-year-old Caroline Dickinson have agreed to DNA testing to eliminate their sons from the inquiry.

As five detectives arrived from France at the police station in Launceston, Cornwall, yesterday, Alan Wraith, head-

master of Launceston College, said the parents were willing to co-operate to solve the murder, which took place during a school trip to Brittany last month.

A spokesman for Cornwall Education Authority said yesterday: "They want to question a large number of people from the school party, not just the boys."

Statements and interviews given in France after Caroline's death will be checked. All the interviews will be carried out by Devon and Cornwall officers specially trained in conducting inquiries with juveniles. Assistant Chief Constable John Albon confirmed that the interviews and inquiries "will be conducted by English officers under English law".

Caroline was raped and murdered at a youth hostel on July 18 during a trip to Pleine Fourges with a 45-strong party of pupils and teachers from the mixed comprehensive school.

## Ulster BSE cull halted in dispute over money

By NICHOLAS WATT

ABATTOIR owners in Northern Ireland withdrew from the Government's cattle culling scheme yesterday, bringing the BSE eradication programme to a halt. The Meat Exporters' Association, which oversees abattoirs, is protesting at plans to cut the amount paid for each animal from £87 to £47.

In Britain the chief executive of the Intervention Board, George Trevelyan, who is overseeing the culling programme, said that he was still in negotiations with the Federation of Fresh Meat Wholesalers, the equivalent of the Northern Ireland association.

A spokeswoman for the Northern Farmers' Union said last night: "As far as I know these negotiations are on a constructive footing. There is no reason to believe that there will be a similar situation in England and Wales as there is in Northern Ireland."

German farmers have drastically cut their orders of British cow manure since the BSE scare, according to an exporter in Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan. Major Frank Homfray said that buyers had told him there was no longer any demand.

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Roman writers reveal sex-and-sewing culture among the wealthy wives of occupied Britain

# Empire's home-builders were liberated women

BY EMMA WILKINS

WHEN Julia Domna, wife of the Emperor Septimius Severus, visited Britain in AD 208, every upwardly mobile Roman woman in the province wanted to copy her exotic hairstyle.

Fashion victims crowded to glimpse the latest trend of curly locks adorned with colourful ribbons before rushing home to experiment with crimping tongs. Her style was the talk of the smartest dinner

parties and set a trend that persisted for 50 years after her return to Rome. The prosperous Romano-British women were burdened with very few responsibilities outside the home but were in charge of domestic arrangements, including the provision of clothes for the family. Even in the most noble establishments, women were expected to spin and weave cloth. According to the historian

On Monday: in the final part of our series, the Romans in Wales

Suetonius, the Emperor Augustus had his clothes made by female relatives.

Girls could become brides as young as 12, but most delayed marriage until their early 20s. Julius Caesar noted that for a German "to have intercourse with a woman below the age of 20 is considered perfectly scandalous".

There was a tendency for husbands to be much older than their brides — military men were expected to wait until retirement in their forties before taking a wife. Divorce could be granted to either partner on the grounds of childlessness or adultery.

Among the general population, the vast majority of women joined their husbands to till the soil. Up to 90 per cent of the people worked on the land. Women in the towns also shared their husband's work, helping out as potters, weavers and bakers.

Few independent professions were open to women, apart from jobs as midwives, wet nurses, priestesses, acrobats and actresses — although



Augustus did ban anyone of senatorial rank from marrying an actress. A pair of leather pants, found during excavations in London, may have been the bottom half of a leather bikini — the costume favoured by female acrobats.

While Roman women had no political status, could not own property or bring any legal action, the native British women had wider roles, according to Lindsay Alanson-Jones of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, who is the leading authority on women of the age.

It was not unusual for a woman to become tribal leader: two out of the three client kingdoms established after the invasion were ruled by women. Boudicca took over

leadership of the Iceni after her husband's death. Cartimandua, Queen of the Brigantes, betrayed Caratacus, the rebel British leader, winning prosperity for her people and consolidating her position as client ruler of the northern tribes. She divorced her husband, took his armour-bearer as her lover, and defeated his attempted rebellion.

Sex was freely discussed in pre-Christian Roman society. When Julia Domna visited the wife of a Caledonian chief, their conversation turned to carnal matters. According to an account by Cassius Dio, the Empress asked Argentocoxus's wife if it was true that British women slept with their husband's relations.

The Scottish lady retorted: "We fulfil the demands of nature in a much better way than do you Roman women, for we consort openly with the best men, whereas you let yourselves be debauched in secret by the vilest."

Julia Domna, who enjoyed an intimate relationship with several handsome household slaves, was silenced.



Julia Domna: slept with slaves, while liberated Celtic wives insisted on "the best"

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## Gourmet invader added spice to Celtic life

BY ALAN HAMILTON

A VISIT to the 1st-century equivalent of a Marks & Spencer food hall in Londinium would have yielded a surprising variety of ingredients for that last-minute dinner party after an evening at the amphitheatre.

Britain's native Celts were efficient and intensive farmers of wheat, pearl barley and livestock, but their diet would have been far too bland for the Roman palate, which enjoyed the liberal inclusion of herbs and spices. The invader introduced Britain to coriander, dill, fennel, rue, oregano and bay leaf, which also served as a household air freshener when it was burnt as incense.

No Roman dish was complete without a liberal dousing of *garum*, a sauce made by marinating the rotting entrails of tunny fish in blood and salt for two months. Present-day Worcester

shire sauce, in which anchovies and shallots reside for long periods in barrels of vinegar, is a direct descendant.

Celtic man grew apples and pears, and picked wild strawberries and raspberries. The Romans brought new varieties of apple and introduced plums, cherries, damsons and quince to the British fruit bowl. They taught the Celts about salad, using the novelties of rocket, lettuce and chicory dressed with olive oil.

Vegetables figured large in the Romano-British diet. They loved their onions, believing them to act as a hair

restorer, and they certainly ate their greens — Brussels sprouts and cabbage, which was boiled with soda in the water to keep it green and was considered a protection against hangovers. The British were introduced to other novelties on the vegetable counter: asparagus, garlic and cardoon, forerunner of the globe artichoke.

Like their modern-day descendants, who discovered continental cuisine through package holidays, the Celts were taught to flavour and sweeten their dishes by cooking with wine, or with *defrutum*, concentrated grape juice. The British had been importing French plonk long before the Romans arrived, but it had been strictly for drinking. The Romans brought viticulture but, in a forerunner of a Brussels directive, it was not until well into the 3rd century that they allowed British vineyards to produce wine for the domestic market.

Some Roman dishes have, mercifully, disappeared from the modern British table — among them peacock rissoles and, more recently, sausages made with animal brains.

You do not come across this 1st-century recipe much, either: mince pork and dormice together, grind pepper and pine kernels together, add to meat and add fish sauce; stuff whole dormice with the meat mixture and sew them up, place on a tile and cook in the oven. You could try it in the Aga, but you might find M&S is clean out of dormice.

Frontier town that embraced civilisation

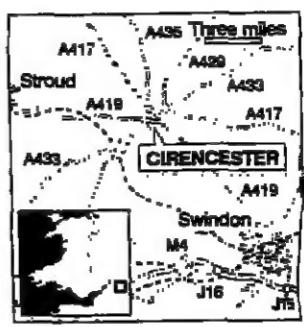
BY JOHN YOUNG

CORNIUM, now Cirencester, was in its heyday one of the most important towns in Roman Britain. Its name was derived from the Celtic Caer-Coryn, the highest part of the Churn, the source of the Thames, and the full Romanised version was Corinium Dobunnorum, denoting its status as the administrative centre for the Dobunni tribe.

It had probably been a sizeable settlement before the Romans arrived. Between AD 47 and 67 it was a garrison town on the Roman army's western front. The Dobunni are generally supposed to have been well disposed towards the invaders, in which case it is not clear why it was deemed necessary to station some 500 cavalry there.

After Boudicca's rebellion had been suppressed, the frontier moved westward towards Wales. The fort was dismantled and a new town laid out, which, over the next three centuries, developed into a flourishing provincial capital. Its amphitheatre housed an estimated 8,000 and was used for gladiatorial contests; traces of curved walls suggest the existence of a separate adjoining theatre. Its grassy banks, nearly 30ft high, survive.

Visitors, however, should direct their attention to the museum, with its superb display of artefacts in imaginatively reconstructed rooms.



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Ecumenical action pack encourages Christians to discuss ways of damaging RAF jet

## Church educationist condemns lesson in civil disobedience

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of England last night called for sensitivity in handling an education kit that invites churchgoers to pretend they are protesters and to consider the consequences of getting involved in civil disobedience.

One chapter in the pack, titled *DIY Disarmament*, which challenges churchgoers to examine under what circumstances they would break the law, provoked strong criticism from Diana Murrie, the Church's children's work officer, who said it was biased and should come with a health warning.

Mrs Murrie will warn against wholeheartedly recommending the activities when she writes in a September newsletter to the 43 dioceses in England. She said: "How can you have an educational

workshop on how to smash up a tank?"

The pack is published for the ecumenical One World Week, an annual education event in October funded by the mainstream churches. The theme this year is *Living on the Edge*. Although the pack is not aimed specifically at children, the tens of thousands of churchgoers who take part in the activities will include young people.

The pack invites participants to find out about "acts of civil disobedience" in their area. It urges them to list "all of the different means" used by the Ploughshares group, whose members broke into a British Aerospace factory and damaged a Hawk jet. They were recently acquitted of unlawful damage.

Under a section headed

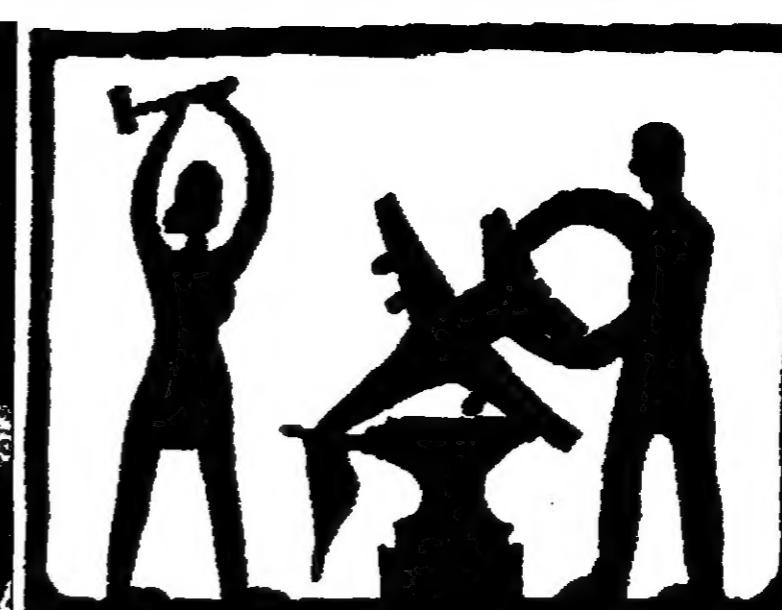
"Learning to Be Active Citizens", the pack says that "there are at least ten" ways to stop a Hawk and urges them to find out all they can about each method. Another section asks groups to read aloud the testimony of Joanna Wilson, a leading protester against the Indonesian regime in East Timor and one of the acquitted protesters.

Churchgoers are asked: "Have you ever had to stand up against authority of any kind — school, work, parental? Under what circumstances, if any, would you consider breaking the law of the land?"

Mrs Murrie, quoted in yesterday's *Church Times*, said: "This has really gone over the top. My view would be that we need to teach children and young people that the law is



Joanna Wilson, acquitted of damaging a Hawk jet, and an illustration from the One World Week education pack



not to be broken under any circumstances. "You can't say to them that there are circumstances to take a hammer to things."

A spokesman for the Church of England said: "The pack is intended for group leaders who will lead discussion and activity on the issues surrounding campaigning. The pack does not encourage people to break the law but encourages them to consider the issues involved in protest

and the consequences of any actions that might be taken."

Tony Alexander, author of the chapter, said: "We're trying to think about the issues. It is an adult education pack."

Dr Roger Williamson, who works for the church's board for social responsibility and is also chairman of One World Week, said that the pack was not aimed at children: "It's examining the action that the women took. No one's sug-

gesting that people go and copy it." He added: "There is a difference between acting and reality." He asked whether it would be wrong to act in a Shakespeare play "because there is murder in it."

But the former Master of the Rolls, Lord Denning, 97, criticised the material. He said: "I don't think that children ought to be instructed in anything of a political nature. Children are not able to distinguish between right or wrong or good

and evil." Criticising the jury for acquitting the four Hawk protesters, Lord Denning said: "They should not have been let off. For all this to be repeated to young children is wrong."

British Aerospace, owners of the damaged jet, said: "This is a manner for the Church; we recognise the principle of peaceful protest."

At Your Service, Weekend, page 13

THE SUNDAY TIMES

## ONLY MAKE BELIEVE

The sad, secret world of the Kennedys



Jackie Kennedy created a myth that has survived for decades. Now, at last, her secrets are out . . .

News Review — The Sunday Times, tomorrow

### Credo

## Christ's own compassion must underlie divorce rules

Gillian Crow

Many people in the secular world receive the false impression that Christianity's opposition to divorce and remarriage cannot be altered because it is firmly based on the Bible and the traditional teaching of the Church.

However much sympathy Christians may have with the victims of a failed marriage, the New Testament and tradition are presented as irrefutable.

Those who wish to face the practical realities of modern life and deal with them in a compassionate way find themselves at odds with this apparently unassimilable fact. To make any changes would appear to be bowing to secular pressure to bend time-honoured rules.

It is worth reminding them that this tradition belongs not to the Christian Church as a whole but only to the Church of Rome and the Western Churches that have derived from it.

The Eastern Orthodox Church allows the remarriage of people to whom it has granted a church divorce — and this is not a new concession to today's unhappy situation but part of its holy tradition, taking its authority from Christ's teaching according to St Matthew's Gospel.

For those who were hard of heart, Moses allowed divorce. For those whose hearts were attuned to Christ's will, who were able to go beyond the bare rules and keep not only from



murder but from the slightest anger, from every temptation to swear, from every evil thought against even their enemies, Christ beckoned them towards a more perfect ideal of marriage. Yet Christ made an exception even to His deeper interpretation of the Law in the case of adultery, the breaking of a relationship, which the Church from the early centuries saw as one of the sins, together with murder and apostasy, that warranted automatic excommunication until the sinner repented.

Western theologians may disagree with this reading of the Gospel but they should not forget that it exists.

The Reformed Churches could do well to look at the Orthodox teaching on di-

vorce and remarriage rather than remain shackled to the Roman position.

The Orthodox Church grants a church divorce. The ideal is for people whose marriages have been ended to be given three years of spiritual retraining before remarriage can be considered. Although in practice this does not always happen, it is a safeguard against couples who might seek a second church wedding lightly, without any religious commitment.

The service for the remarriage of two divorced people replaces some of the joyful prayers with ones of a more penitential nature, acknowledging the fact that they have fallen short of the ideal.

While the intention of forming an unbroken union is symbolised in the Orthodox ceremony by a circular procession, there are no vows of "till death us do part" — or indeed any vows at all. After the exchange of rings during the betrothal, the first part of the service, bride and groom come into the centre of the nave to be crowned.

The mystery of love between two people is not something that can be reduced to a judicial formula.

Nor is the failure of a marriage seen in legalistic terms as a breaking of promises, posing the invidious problem of what to do when people wish to make the same oaths a second time.

The very unfamiliar nature of an Orthodox wedding epitomises different insights and attitudes into marriage and attitudes which have just as long a Christian pedigree as those of the West. They could therefore provide valid answers to churches facing pressure for change from both inside and outside, because they offer not a compromise with the secular view of marriage but a fresh understanding of the Christian ideal.

They have as their root neither a defensive legalism nor modern adjustment but a deep and genuinely Christian compassion.

Gillian Crow is diocesan secretary of the Russian Orthodox Church in Great Britain

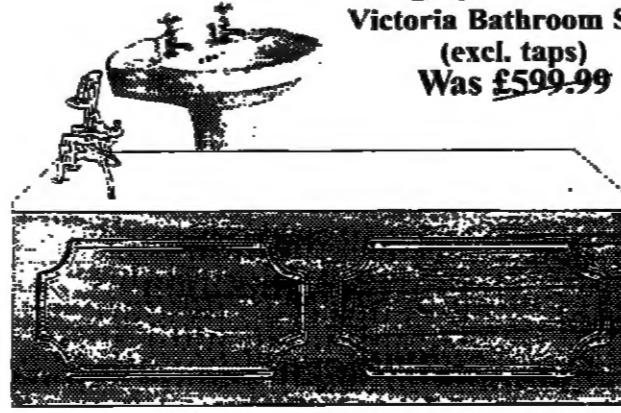
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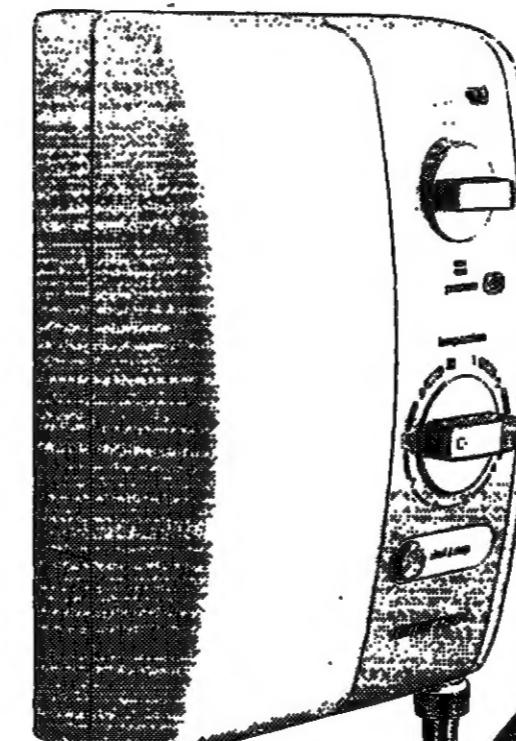
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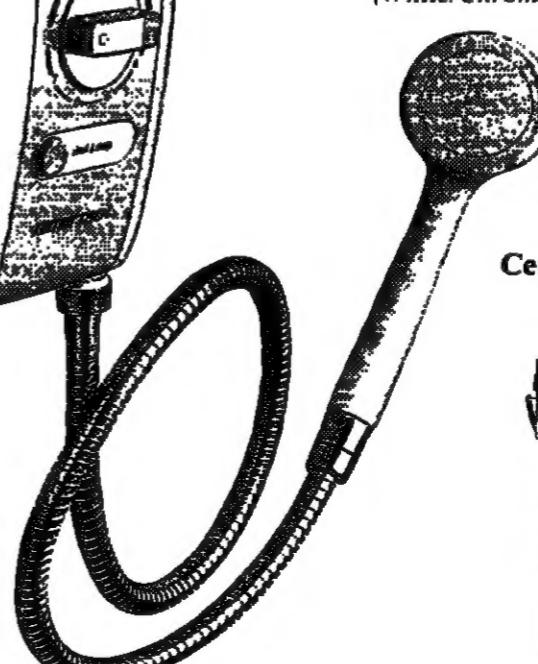
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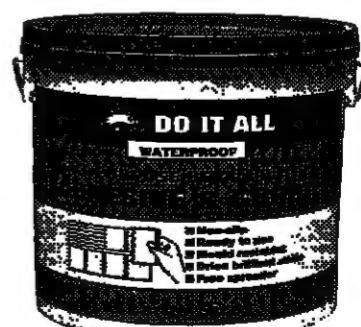
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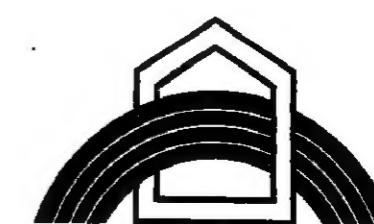
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# Dole oratory stirs hope in despondent party

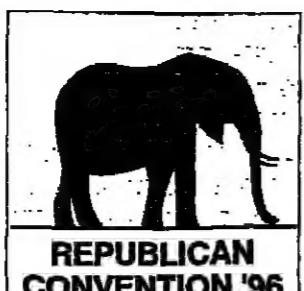
FROM MARTIN FLETCHER  
IN SAN DIEGO

REPUBLICANS left San Diego yesterday pumped up by a successful convention that reached a tumultuous climax on Thursday night with one of Bob Dole's most forceful and combative speeches.

The delegates, who had arrived a week earlier in near despair, went home believing victory in November was possible and with most polls showing a substantial erosion of President Clinton's once-dominant lead. "We're thrilled with where we are," said John Buckley, Mr Dole's communications director, after a Gallup poll suggested that Mr Clinton's lead had halved from 22 points to 11.

Mr Dole received a big boost from his selection of Jack Kemp as running-mate last weekend, but the convention also significantly softened the party's intolerant and extremist image.

The organisers ruthlessly excluded from the limelight hardline conservatives like Pat Buchanan, suppressed debate on such divisive issues as abortion, and forbade men-



REPUBLICAN CONVENTION '96

tion of Newt Gingrich's deeply unpopular Congress. They instead dispatched a string of women, blacks and reassuringly mainstream figures such as General Colin Powell to the podium to win back millions of moderate voters.

There were no surprises, and no debate of real substance, but this was without doubt the slickest, best-packaged political convention America has yet seen.

Mr Dole and Mr Kemp will exploit their new momentum by spending the weekend campaigning together in Colorado, Illinois, New York and Pennsylvania. After his formal nomination Mr Dole's penniless campaign also became eligible for \$62 million (£40 million) in federal funds, and

it will immediately launch a major advertising campaign in battleground states.

However, Mr Dole's chances of defeating Mr Clinton remain slim. The challenger remains a weak campaigner, and Republicans privately shudder over what the silver-tongued President could do to him in this autumn's debates. Mr Dole is also gambling on his promise of massive tax cuts when the economy is purring and voters may be reluctant to risk such a radical move.

Mr Dole's hour-long acceptance speech was the most important of his life and most commentators agreed that this notoriously poor orator rose to the occasion.

Turning his age to his advantage, Mr Dole portrayed himself as a repository of the vanishing values — "God, family, honour, duty, country" — that made America great. "Let me be a bridge to a time of tranquillity, faith and confidence in action. To those who say it was never so, that America has not been better, I say you're wrong, and I know because I was there. I have seen it. I remember."

The convention erupted when he finished. Mr Dole was joined on stage by his family, the entire Kemp family, all his primary rivals and a host of other prominent Republicans.



Bob and Elizabeth Dole wave at cheering convention delegates after his acceptance speech in San Diego

## Oven gloves are off as wives bake for victory

Now the Republican convention is over the real battle begins. I refer not to the contest between Bob Dole and President Clinton, but to that between their wives.

On Wednesday night Elizabeth Dole enthralled millions of television viewers with her daring Oprah Winfrey-style broadcast from the convention floor.

Within 24 hours the White House let it be known that Hillary Clinton had picked up the gauntlet and would be doing a number of her own at the Democrats' Chicago convention. Exactly how she intends to top Mrs Dole's tour de force is not yet clear, but perform she will.

*Family Circle* magazine has, meanwhile, announced its second quadrennial "cookie bake-off" between the candidates' wives, started after Mrs Clinton snapped at a reporter ques-

### SAN DIEGO NOTEBOOK

tioning her conduct as a lawyer: "I suppose I could have stayed home and baked cookies."

This year Mrs Clinton is sticking with a winner, challenging Mrs Dole's pecan roll cookies with the same chocolate chip cookie recipe that won 35 per cent of the readers' votes last year to beat Barbara Bush's recipe.

The Dole campaign reached San Diego in truly desperate financial straits. It had spent almost all the legal limit of \$30 million (£19.3 million) by the time the primary season finished last March. But from the moment Mr Dole was formally nominated at 9.08pm on Wednesday he became eligible for

another \$62 million in federal funds, and he could not get the money fast enough.

A female aide carrying a signed letter from Mr Dole and his running-mate, Jack Kemp, rushed to San Diego's airport to catch a 9.30pm plane to Baltimore.

She landed soon after dawn and handed the letter to a Dole campaign accountant who drove it straight down to the Washington office of the Federal Election Commission, arriving just after 9am. Commission officials, alerted in advance, sped the letter round all five of its members for approval. It was then driven at high speed to a Treasury department office in Maryland which had the cash transferred by wire from another office in Philadelphia.

Long before Mr Dole stood up to deliver his acceptance speech on Thursday evening he had \$61,820,000

sitting in his bank account. This weekend his campaign will unleash its first barrage of long-overdue commercials attacking Mr Clinton.

Jack Kemp had grown so disillusioned over recent months with his party's stridency and intolerance that he had considered not attending this week's convention. That was, of course, before Mr Dole stunned everyone last weekend by making him his running-mate.

Mr Kemp had, however, accepted an invitation to appear at the Democratic convention and intends to keep his word. On August 27, a day before Mr Clinton is formally renominated, the Republican vice-presidential candidate will appear with Bill Bradley, a Democratic Senator, at a seminar on race relations.

MARTIN FLETCHER

## Clinton feigns indifference as rival seizes the limelight

FROM TOM RHODES  
IN WASHINGTON

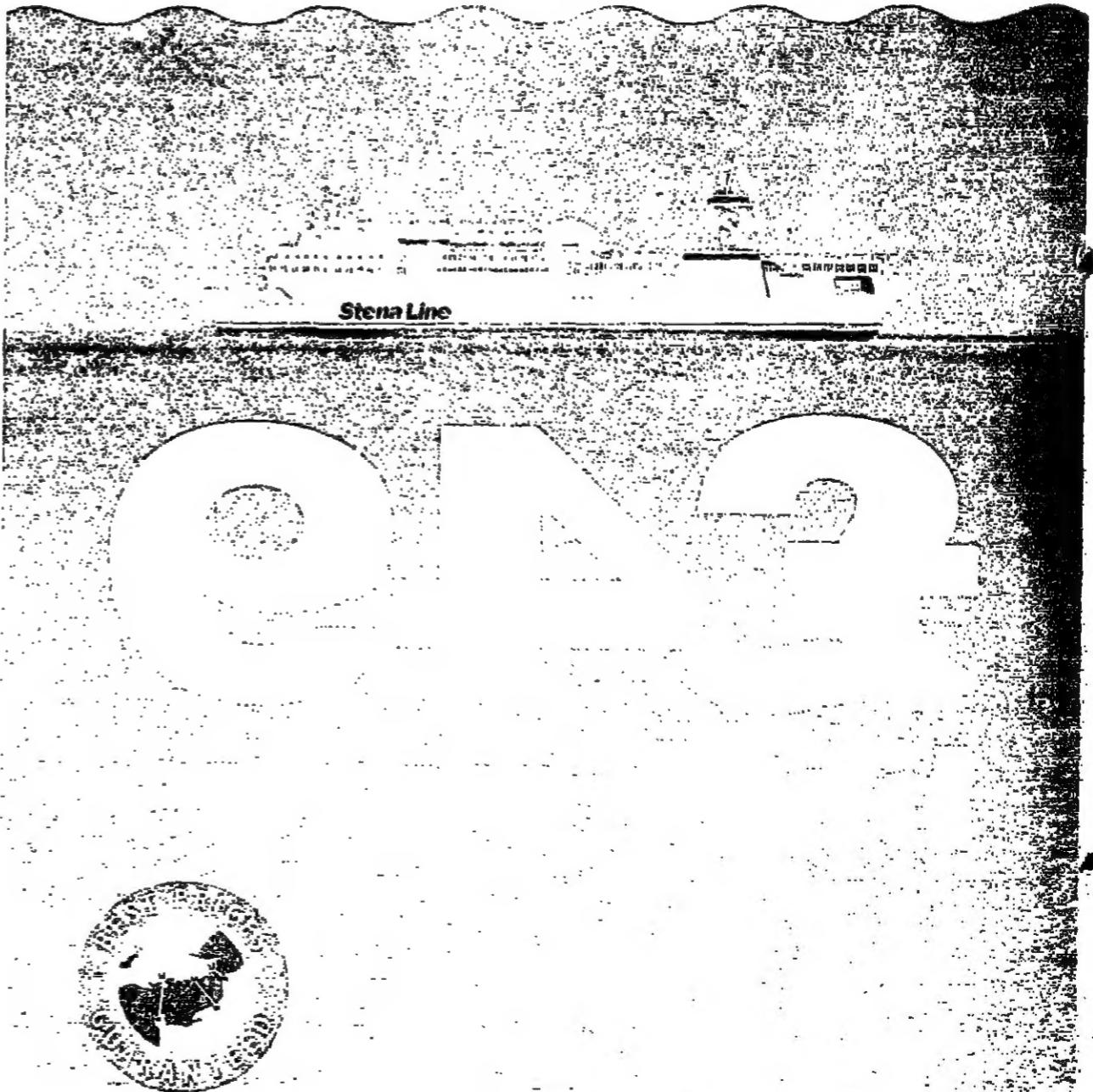
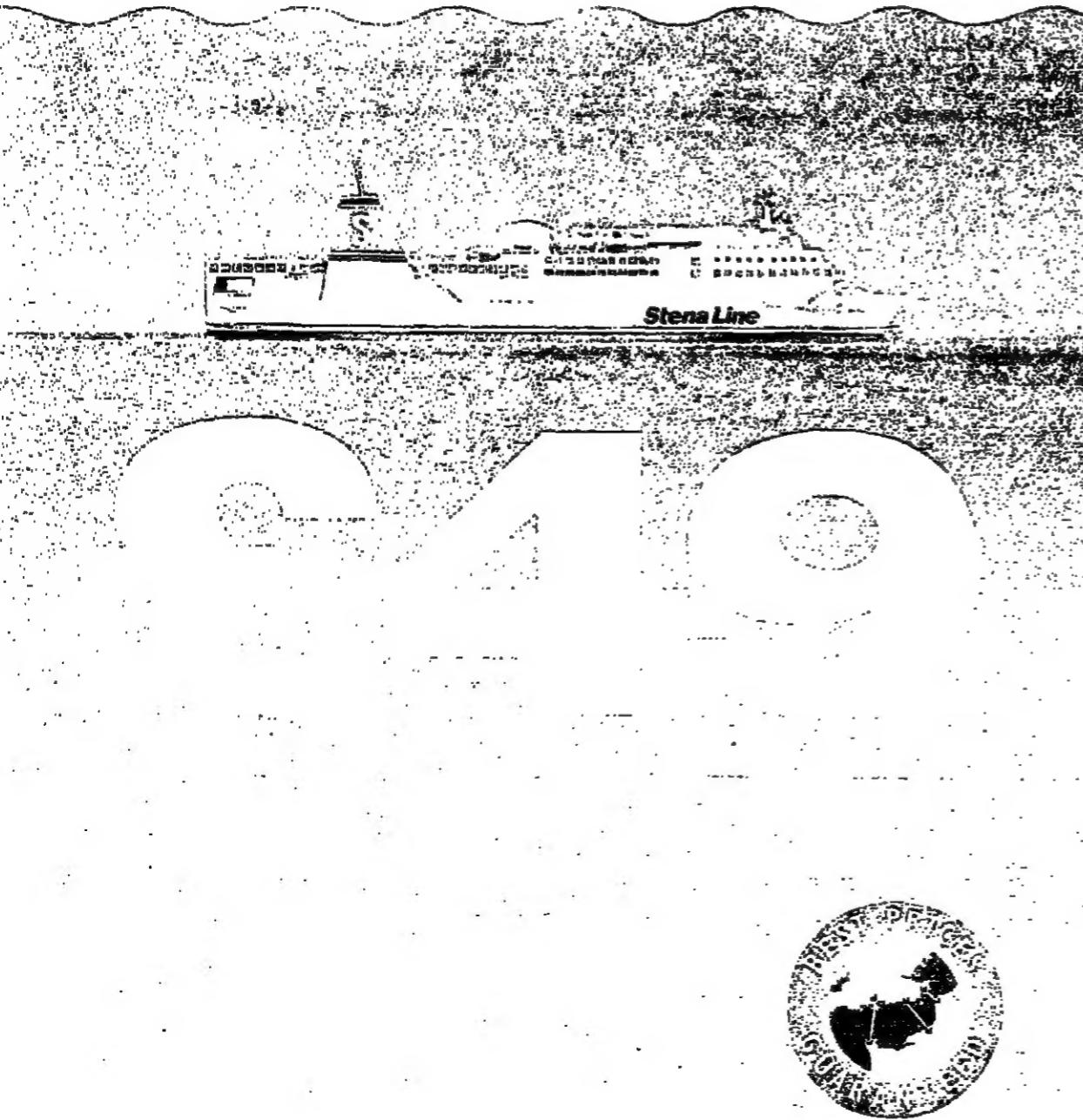
AS FAR as the American public is concerned President Clinton has spent a peaceful week basking in the picturesque shadow of the Grand Tetons, a world away from the Republican circus in San Diego.

He has not watched any of the convention coverage, said Mary Ellen Glynn, the deputy White House spokeswoman travelling with the Clinton party in Wyoming. "He may have caught some of the news clips but that's all."

The air of regal detachment, however, belies the reality of the past week. Doug Sosnik, the senior White House aide camped in a local motel, has analysed the minutiae of every Republican speech and briefed the President daily.

In addition, Mr Clinton has taken regular telephone calls from Christopher Dodd, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and George Stephanopoulos, the senior political adviser, who were sent to San Diego. Ms Glynn has been feeding her boss reams of newspaper clippings while Bruce Lindsey, the Deputy White House counsel, has been helping the President to prepare for the Democratic convention in Chicago in nine days' time.

Even the decision to come to Jackson Hole had a political subtext. Some advisers had suggested a holiday in Martha's Vineyard but the Massachusetts resort was deemed too elitist.



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# India looks back in despair at 50 years of self-rule

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA entered its fiftieth year of independence from Britain yesterday with an outpouring of brutal self-analysis and an exceptional series of attacks on the crumbling political order.

"It is difficult to discern clarity or sanity in Indian politics," *The Hindustan Times* said. Churchill was being proved right as men of straw took the country by the throat, declared *The Statesman*. "The history of independent India is pockmarked with compromises and failures," Calcutta's *Telegraph* raged.

Few countries are as self-critical as India. *The Indian Express* noted that for half a century Indians had flagellated themselves with the message that "we have failed to meet our trusts with destiny: we are a disappointment". It described this phenomenon as "collective despair".

"Yesterday's newspapers offered no respite. They railed against high-level corruption, which newspaper editorial writers all agree has never been so brazen nor carried so little stigma. But the press generally agreed that the country would survive its "venal" politicians. "We shall overcome," *The Statesman* insisted.

It reproduced the front page of its August 15, 1947 issue, the tone of which was far removed from this week's assessments of the nation's rulers. "Pledge of service and dedication — day of rejoicing in India," the headline said, and quoted

Mountbatten as saying: "This is a parting between friends." The paper had something nice to say about Pakistan, which would never happen now.

"Scenes of splendour in Karachi," it declared.

Disgust with politicians has never run deeper. "Corruption and criminality have become the hallmark of ruling politicians," *The Hindustan Times* said in an editorial headlined "Message of hope". The "hope" arose from the destruction of the Congress Party's domination of Indian politics since independence and the shift to an era of coalitions. This transition had demonstrated the strength of Indian democracy.

*The Times of India* noted the contrast between H.D. Deve Gowda, the Prime Minister, and Jawaharlal

Nehru, who delivered the first Independence Day speech 49 years ago — one a south Indian, non-Brahmin who came from the grassroots, the other a Harrow and Cambridge-educated Kashmiri-Brahmin from an aristocratic north Indian family.

*The Statesman* ventured that the decline in political standards, now in "free fall", began with Nehru's daughter, Indira Gandhi. It called politicians "venal, corrupt, greedy as well as incompetent, a dreadful combination". The Nehru-Gandhi family had started the rise of Hindu fundamentalism, the pandering to caste instead of overcoming it, the appalling corruption and the refusal of the state to enforce the law. And yet, it noted, the nation was

survived.

*The Indian Express* observed that people were not ashamed of India. "Their exasperation is directed at the public face of India. India thirsts for achievement and success. What it sees on August 15 epitomises the precise opposite."

■ **Raid on homes:** India's federal police agency raided two homes of Sukh Ram, a former Communications Minister, yesterday and seized 30 million rupees (£542,000) in cash. Mr Ram, who was in former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's Government, was responsible for privatisation of India's telecommunications. (Reuters)

Nehru's "trust with destiny" unrealised



Sabine Dardenne, 12, hugs her mother after she and Laetitia Delhez, 14, were freed from a house in Belgium

## Abducted girls freed from tiny cell

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE

THE discovery of two frightened schoolgirls incarcerated in a tiny, sound-proof cubbyhole in a basement at a house in southern Belgium is believed to have brought to an end a child-sex ring linked to the disappearance of up to 15 children.

A nationwide search for one of the girls, Laetitia Delhez, 14, who had been missing for a few days, led the police late on Thursday to what they believe is the heart of a paedophile ring and to the discovery of the second child, Sabine Dardenne, 12, who had been missing for three months and almost given up for dead.

Four people were under arrest in Cherleroy yesterday amid hopes that the series of kidnappings has come to an end. Fourteen girls and one boy have disappeared in Belgium in the past six years, of whom five have been found murdered and eight are missing.

The police were led to the two girls' sound-proof prison by two men and a woman who were detained on Tuesday. The police had searched the house on Tuesday but failed to find the girls.

The girls were reunited with their parents and were being counselled yesterday. Cheering crowds filled streets outside their homes to welcome them back.

"They were found in a space 2ft by 3ft and we do not yet know what happened while they were kidnapped," the police said. Their discovery came after Belgium was flooded with television and press appeals for help in a campaign largely organised by a parents' action group set up after two children unconnected with the paedophile case were shot dead by gangsters.

Laetitia Delhez disappeared a week ago during a short walk from a swimming pool to her home. Witnesses reported a van in the area and remembered part of the licence number. That, and a poster campaign, led to three arrests on Tuesday and a fourth yesterday.

## UN tribunal accuses Rwanda colonel of planning genocide

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

THE "evil genius" alleged to be behind the Rwandan genocide and his propaganda chief were yesterday indicted by the United Nations for genocide and crimes against humanity.

Colonel Theoneste Bagosora, the former "chief de cabinet" in the Rwandan Defence Ministry who is being held in detention in Cameroon, was described by Rakia Omar, co-director of African Rights, as "the top of the pyramid" in the systematic slaughter of million Tutsis and Hutus.

Ms Omar, who has conducted comprehensive investigations into the mass killings, claimed the colonel, a Hutu, had been responsible for planning Rwanda's final solution to its "Tutsi problem". He was instant notoriety for staging cruelty. He has been

accused of being behind the murder of Hutu opposition figures who might stand in the way of his plans for mass slaughter, and of ten Belgian paratroopers.

Among the first to die, after President Habyarimana's plane was mysteriously shot down on April 6, 1994, was the Hutu Prime Minister, Agathe Uwilingiyimana. She was torn from the crotch to her throat with a bayonet.

According to a Ghanaian officer who saw the killings of the Belgian soldiers, who were acting as the Prime Minister's escort, Colonel Bagosora ordered that their limbs be broken with iron bars. Then he had them castrated.

When confronted by *The Times* and asked to explain the mass killings that marked the road south of Gitarama with

bodies every three yards, for 20 miles, he smiled. "There have been incidents of poor discipline in the army and especially the militia. But this is war."

The second man indicted, Andre Ntagera, was a founding director of Radio Television Libre de Milles Collines, the extremist radio station which, before April, had warned Hutu peasants that all Tutsis were planning a genocide of Hutus.

The men are expected to face the UN's genocide tribunal, which does not allow capital punishment for those convicted in Arusha, Tanzania, later this year. Rwandan officials yesterday made clear they want to try Colonel Bagosora and his accomplices under their legal system "and shoot them".

## Riot police storm Seoul university

## Mid-air feat saves crippled plane

FROM ROGER MAYNARD  
IN SEOUL

Seoul: South Korean police stormed a Seoul university yesterday for the third consecutive day to arrest 3,600 students demonstrating for reunification with communist North Korea, a police spokesman said.

Police failed to make the students at Yonsei University surrender, however, and pulled back from the campus several hours later. Shortly before night fell, several helicopters fired teargas and police in riot gear began chasing fleeing students.

Lee Jong Ok, a spokesman, said about 15,000 police officers had been deployed in and around Yonsei to arrest the radicals. Police said a student telephoned the Seoul police headquarters to say they would set off gas explosions if police forced their way into the buildings. (Reuters)

A passenger was dangled out of a light aircraft by his legs during flight so he could unlock the wheels, which had been jammed by a hydraulic fault.

Brian Howson was hung over the side by three fellow passengers when their Cessna Centurion developed a fault shortly after taking off from Port Hedland, in Western Australia. The plane circled

for some time to lose fuel, but eventually Mr Howson, 51, managed to pull the two main wheels of the single-engined plane back into place.

He described the drama as extremely frightening, but added: "It was something I had to do." Mr Howson said he was given the dangerous task because he just happened to be sitting in the right seat, but he had complete faith in those who held on to his legs.

"I told them I wanted to borrow some money off them before I went out so they wouldn't let me go," he said.

The plane's owner, Clark Butson, said: "It was a great effort to get a successful result and I can't praise the passengers enough. They were gutsy."

— Mr Howson is a true hero." One of the other passengers, Mark Sunion from Perth, said he had been in a positive mood aboard the plane throughout the ordeal. "We thought the worst that would happen would be a belly landing," he said.

## WORLD SUMMARY

## Mugabe marries in tent city

Harare: President Mugabe, 72, and his former secretary, Grace Marufu, 31, will exchange Catholic marriage vows in Zimbabwe today (Jan Raath writes). The couple, who have two children, have already undergone a tribal ceremony.

A city of tents has been erected at Mr Mugabe's rural home at Zvimba, about 50 miles west of Harare. In addition to the 6,000 invitations, the entire population of the farming area where he was born have been invited. President Mandela and Grace Machel, the widow of Samora Machel, the former Mozambique president, will also attend.

## 65-stone man is hoisted from flat

New York: Firemen had to knock down walls, widen doors and take out banisters and to winch David High, who weighs about 65 stone, out of the third-floor Brooklyn flat he had not left for five years (James Bone writes). Mr High, 42, was treated in hospital for kidney failure. During a 20-man rescue that took six hours, he was winched down on a wooden platform and squeezed into a large van.

## Food poisoning toll rises to 10

Tokyo: Japan's food poisoning outbreak claimed its tenth victim — a schoolgirl aged 12 — with health authorities no closer to halting the deadly O157 strain of the bacterium *Escherichia coli*. She died at Osaka University's medical centre in Sakai, a suburb of Osaka. Her death occurred as many other children were leaving hospital after treatment. (AFP)

## Oh, Calcutta

Calcutta: The hand-pulled rickshaw, venerable symbol of this teeming city, is to be banned from clogged streets, together with hand-pulled carts, to improve the average speed of vehicles. (Reuters)

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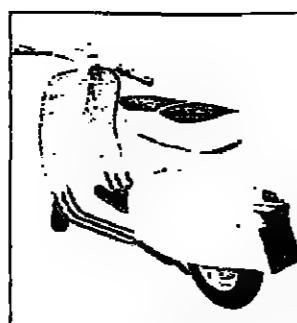
# Italian wasp puts sting in 50-year tale of love

FROM RICHARD OWEN  
IN ROME

IT WEAVES nippily in front of you in traffic jams, and wakes you up in the early hours with its tiny roar. Generations of Italians have conducted love affairs on it, done business on it and (in the case of a delinquent minority) snatched handbags and hats from it.

Next month lovers of the Vespa — it means wasp — are gathering to celebrate 50 years of a vehicle that gave millions of Italians freedom and mobility in the post-Second World War years — and still keeps them country on the move.

The Vespa was the brain-child of Corradino D'Ascanio, an aeronautical engineer who designed an award-winning Fiat-engined helicopter in the 1930s, the DAT 3. After the war he joined forces with Enrico Piaggio, the motor manufacturer, to produce a vehicle for the common man: not a motorbike, which D'Ascanio despised as dirty, inelegant and too big, but a motor scooter. The first rolled off the production line at Pontedera in Tuscany in 1946.



The Sportique, a 150cc British-built Vespa

with a delighted Signor Piaggio exclaiming: "It's like a wasp!"

As the Vespa's fame grew,

*The Times* defined it as "a decisively Italian mode of transport which seems destined to conquer all continents".

It was affordable, rid-

iculously easy to park, and

economic to run. You hopped on, turned the key and went.

But, above all, it was sexy.

"What was intended as a ve-

hicle for married couples be-

came an instrument of

conquest for teenage boys,"

the magazine *Oggi* said this

week. "The Vespa gave us

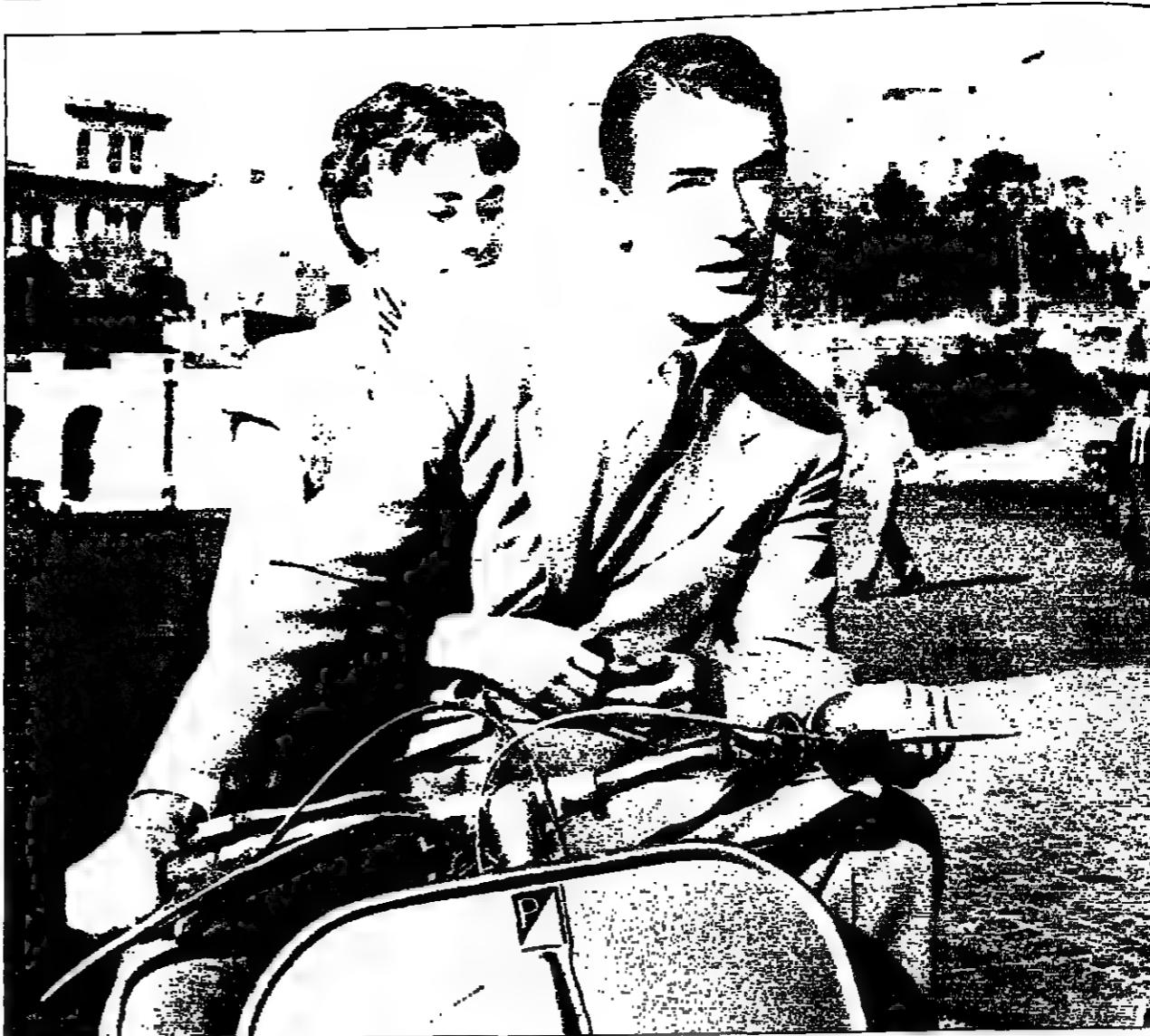
Italians our first taste of erotic

freedom. Young couples headed in droves for the mountains and woods. Millions of kisses have been exchanged on the back of a Vespa." Middle-aged males speak of them with an affectionate smile, half sentimental, half lascivious.

In the 1960s Vespas and Lambrettas crossed to Britain to become the de rigueur mode of transport for neat, short-haired "mods" in their battles on Brighton seafront with greasy-haired, leather-clad "rockers", who preferred motorbikes. The scooter spawned imitators all over the world, from South Africa to Russia, but saw off Japanese competition. It acquired sleeker lines, came in more daring colours and is displayed at the Museum of Modern Art in New York as a prime example of Italian design.

Fifteen million Vespas, in a variety of models, have rolled off the production lines since 1946. The Piaggio factory is not resting on its laurels, however; it plans to use next month's celebrations to launch a new version with a design which, it says, will hark back to D'Ascanio's original — the Vespa 125.

Why commute? Car 96



Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck go sightseeing in Rome on a Vespa in the film *Roman Holiday*

## Britain accused of Hong Kong pact with Peking

HONG KONG'S most popular politician, Martin Lee, QC, says he believes Britain and China have "kissed and made up" and that London has told Peking "not to take him [Governor Chris Patten] seriously".

Mr Lee, leader of the Democratic Party, said in an interview: "There may not be an agreement as such, but I believe there must be some such understanding."

With less than 11 months to go before Britain gives up what one Hong Kong resident calls the "last jewel in a tattered crown", on June 30, next year, the British Government's stock here is low. Mr Patten has been vilified by many businessmen for "upsetting China" by encouraging democracy, though he still scores high marks in local popularity polls. Moreover, there is a general feeling of being let down by Britain regarding citizenship and right of abode for 3.3 million British subjects in the colony of 6.3 million people.

A British official admitted: "There is an unjustified feeling of British betrayal by Hong Kong's chattering classes."

There is also an ambivalent attitude towards Britain's overall record in the waning days of 150 years of colonial rule. While some of Hong Kong's middle classes say they feel indifferent about their soon-to-depart colonial master, and others are "disappointed", some influential citizens believe Britain's role has been beneficial. Many upper-class Chinese parents still want to send their male offspring to British schools rather than to the United States or Canada.

On the political front, Mr Lee and other politicians believe the British Government would prefer the colony's democratically elected leaders to deal directly with China. Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, may have suggested as much last weekend when he said that people with different views should be nominated to the selection committee due to pick a future chief executive and appoint a "provisional legislature".

"I think the British want to wash their hands of the problem," said Lee, whose party won most votes to the legislature last year. "If things go

Colony's leading democrat says London has told China not to take Chris Patten seriously, writes James Pringle

wrong, they can say: 'Well, it is just China, nothing to do with us'." He added: "Britain and China have kissed and made up on the basis of Britain telling Peking that this fellow [Mr Patten] will continue to say annoying things but just ignore him because we are not going to take him seriously."

On Britain's overall record, David Tang, a flamboyant entrepreneur and socialite, said it was "nonsensical" to say the British did not make any contribution to Hong Kong. "If there is a shining example of colonialism, it is Hong Kong," he said, puffing on a Havana. "Even patriotic Chinese in Hong Kong must admit privately, they have

been able to make a lot of money, and if someone sues them they can go to a court of law and fight it out under a fair system of justice."

Yet with the handover approaching there is a strong feeling that Britain has now lost the capacity to influence events. China has made it clear it will dismantle the elected legislature that Mr Patten introduced.

Some British officials, too, agree with the view that Britain no longer matters. "We are very much yesterday's people here," said a senior expatriate civil servant. "I think we are increasingly irrelevant."

Despite the pessimism, British officials feel that most matters leading up to the handover can be settled. One official said: "I am not too disheartened about the prospect of completing most of our agenda."

Yet this is an agenda that apparently does not include the continuation of the elected legislature beyond June 30. But British officials insist that when Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, meets Mr Qian at the United Nations in the autumn, he will be pushing to retain it.

On the vexed question of China's "provisional legislature", Mr Lee said: "This would be the most terrible thing for Hong Kong's future. In a Peking-appointed legislature, accountability is to Peking, not to the people of Hong Kong as was guaranteed in Sino-British agreements."

Overall, many Hong Kong Chinese, who are not enamoured of the Communists, seem to feel a certain pride in becoming part of the motherland again, but there is also an awareness that Britain has instilled values of the rule of law besides *laissez-faire* capitalism. There is even a sense a bowing to the inevitable, and of getting the handover over with.

### Civil servants to fight ban

Hong Kong: Senior Hong Kong civil servants yesterday began a legal challenge against a government ban preventing them from joining the 400-strong Chinese panel to select the colony's post-1997 leaders. The month-long nomination period began on Thursday and about 36,000 people cannot apply. (Reuters)

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Patten: has annoyed leaders in Peking



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Lebed  
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# Lebed tries to force rival's resignation over Chechen war

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

ALEKSANDR LEBED, the Russian security chief, appeared last night to have forced the resignation of his rival Anatoli Kulikov, the Interior Minister, after another visit to the war zone in Chechnia.

General Lebed, who has taken on wide new powers to deal with the crisis, raised the stakes in his confrontation with those he said wanted to carry on the "madness" of war in Chechnia when he threatened to resign unless the Interior Minister stepped down. "I am appealing to President Yeltsin and he has to make a difficult choice," General Lebed said. "Only one man must stay — Lebed or Kulikov."

General Lebed accused General Kulikov of having a "Napoleonic complex" and of harbouring plans to let the war spread to other parts of the North Caucasus. The Interior Minister rejected the

charges and issued a statement saying that he was "sending a report to the president of the country asking him to resolve the issue of my tenure of office".

There has been something more than a little Napoleonic in the past week about General Lebed. After the military debacle in Grozny last week, when the rebels took the city, he has taken on sweeping powers as President Yeltsin's special envoy to the breakaway republic. On two visits to Chechnia within a week, he publicly berated everyone associated with Moscow's failed policies there.

General Lebed met Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, the rebel leader, for four hours on Thursday night in southern Chechnia to talk over a new peace plan. They agreed to set up an independent commission to monitor ceasefire violations and decided to postpone discussion of the most trouble-

some issue, the political status of Chechnia, until the military situation was resolved. The general announced his "radical plan" to end the 20-month-old conflict yesterday. Although he did not spell out the details, it seems that, as in Afghanistan, its main provisions would be a near total withdrawal of Russian forces, a new interim government, and a total shutdown of all financing for the republic.

While he has started talking with respect of the separatists, General Lebed's comments about General Kulikov were pure vitriol.

"General Anatoli Kulikov is one of the main culprits in the tragedy in Chechnia," he said. The minister had tried to impede his movements there and had been planning "provocations" in the neighbouring republic of Ingushetia that would lead to a "great Caucasian war", he said.

General Kulikov, whose



Aleksandr Lebed, flanked by Russian commanders, talks to residents in Khanqala, outside Grozny, during his second visit in a week

forces have had the lion's share of action in Chechnia, retorted that his rival had a "maniacal longing for power and inadequate understanding of the problems of Chechnia". He said he had tried to argue with the na-

tional security adviser on Tues-

day, only to be answered with "vulgarity and obscenities".

The spat has more to do with Moscow power politics than Chechnia. General Kulikov was not one of the initiators of the Chechen war

and was generally respected by the Chechen side when he took part in peace negotiations last summer. The nastiness of the fight will embarrass Mr Yeltsin, but as long as the dispute does not spread beyond the general's sphere of

influence — security matters and Chechnia — he will probably not be too worried.

There was still a stalemate in Grozny yesterday. Shamil Basayev, the guerrilla leader who led the attack on Grozny, suggested he might cause

problems for his leadership by refusing to pull out. General Lebed said yesterday that 247 soldiers had been killed and more than 1,000 wounded since last week; 90 per cent of the 142 missing servicemen were almost certainly dead.

## Grozny's rebels bring shattered capital back to life

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN GROZNY

THE young Russian prisoners stood in silence, shifting uneasily from foot to foot, their grim faces expressing a mixture of fear and anticipation at the first visitors they had received since being captured by Chechen separatists.

"No talking," barked Sultan, their jailer, in a clear threat aimed at us and his unfortunate inmates that the meeting was to be limited to eye contact only.

The men, whose ages ranged from 17 to 30, did not appear to have been mistreated, although one gaunt figure had his left arm in a sling, an injury probably suffered during his capture. Despite the silence, their faces spoke volumes.

They knew that their war was over and the very fact that the Chechens were willing to parole them before foreign journalists was a good omen that their lives would be spared. A few miles away the same emotions were displayed by a different set of Russian troops manning a checkpoint on an approach road to Grozny. They sat just as trapped by the war as their luckless colleagues in the makeshift Chechen prison.

"Quite honestly, I do not know what we are doing here," Lieutenant Mikhail Bogachenko, the commander of the post, said. His unit of cheery-faced boys were all drawn from the same mining town in western Siberia.

"We should not have anything to do with the Chechens, let them run their own affairs," said the officer, whose peaceful intentions were underscored by a wild flower stuck inside his rifle barrel.

"For too long this war has

been dictated from Moscow. The people there have no idea what the situation is like on the ground."

His words summed up Moscow's inability to understand what is happening in the Chechen capital, where the ceasefire has enabled the separatists to consolidate their hold.

Rebel positions are already issuing passes to residents and slowly beginning to get the city they helped destroy back on its feet. Shamil Basayev, the Chechen guerrilla chief who led the lightning raid that retook Grozny, is hailed as a hero as he drives unopposed in the streets in his easily recognisable staff car, a converted bank security van.

Yesterday, we travelled on the back of a rebel lorry delivering food and fuel, not as we had anticipated to the fighters, but to elderly residents. It was an astonishing feat of organisation in a city where there is no electricity and where most bridges are destroyed.

The semblance of peace, which means sporadic fighting, does not negate the fear that this city is heading for a new round of bloodshed.

The encouraging noises emerging from the latest peace efforts of General Aleksandr Lebed, the Kremlin's main troubleshooter on Chechnia, have made little impact on the fighters. "Lebed is just like all the rest," Alek Tsagayev, a fighter manning a main rebel checkpoint, said. "There is only one certainty here. There will never be peace as long as a single Russian soldier remains here. It is either them or us."

## Cyprus stays calm for second funeral

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THOUSANDS of mourners attended the highly charged and emotional funeral in Cyprus last night of a second Greek Cypriot man killed in protests against the Turkish occupation of the north of the island.

The ceremony passed without incident, raising hopes that calm would soon return to the island after the bloodiest clashes since Turkey's military intervention 22 years ago.

Costas Simitis, the Greek Prime Minister, flies to Cyprus today for urgent talks with Greek Cypriot political leaders that are aimed at defusing tensions.

Unarmed United Nations peacekeepers, including 388 British soldiers, were on high alert for the funeral of Solomos Solomou, 26, shot dead by Turkish troops on Wednesday.

President Glafcos Clerides, who led the mourners at the state-funded funeral on Wednesday of the first Greek Cypriot protester to die this week, did not attend.

Earlier, the Cyprus Government called for "cool-headed

ness and self-restraint" while Greek Cypriot police indicated they would take a more robust approach to prevent protesters reaching UN lines, by digging trenches and rolling out barbed wire along the flashpoint in the eastern frontier town of Dheria.

As temperatures soared into the 90s, hundreds of police, many in riot gear and armed with teargas and batons, formed a human chain along part of the buffer zone.

Mr Solomou was killed when he tried to tear down a Turkish flag. A post-mortem examination yesterday revealed he had been hit by five bullets fired from two guns. His cousin, Tassos Isaac, was beaten to death by a group from the Turkish-held side near the same spot on Sunday.

Diplomats in Nicosia said the possibility that similar clashes could spiral out of control, and even trigger a wider conflict between the feuding Nato allies, Greece and Turkey, would galvanise the international community into working even harder for a Cyprus settlement.



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Provincial leader with a flair for strategy leads German charge against Brussels bureaucracy

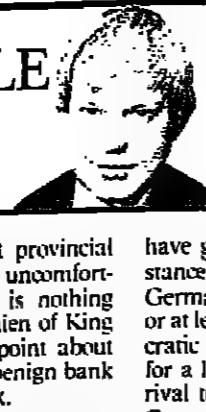
## Saxon 'king' irks Kohl

UNLIKE the sabre-rattling Prussians, Saxon kings preferred to build palaces rather than mobilise armies, and to spawn children rather than wars. Dresden's baroque beauty — the bits that survived the Allied bombing — testify to this talent. It is said that August the Strong sired more than 360 children which, if true, suggests that every Saxon has a drop of blue blood.

It was natural then, for the Saxons to dub their Prime Minister, Kurt Biedenkopf, King Kurt. His absolute majority in Saxony gives him a rare authority in

### DRESDEN FILE

by ROGER BOYES



Germany, where most provincial leaders struggle with uncomfortable coalitions. There is nothing very regal about the mien of King Kurt, but that is the point about Saxon kings: they are benign bank managers on horseback.

Short, a little rubby with a moon-shaped intelligent face, his looks are true to his biography: an ambitious law professor, former

'Ring' faces close encounter

**SAXONS** are proud of their native sons, including Nietzsche, Martin Luther and the inventor of the Wild West cowboy and Indian sagas, Karl May. But the Saxon who has probably most sway on contemporary culture is Richard Wagner. He is not, however, afforded the kind of reverence he receives in Bayreuth.

The latest scheme of Dresden-

vice-chancellor of a West German university, a man who personally winds up his large collection of clocks and who is happiest in command of his elaborate model railway. But two features

have given him real political substance. First, he is leading the German charge against Brussels, or at least against Europe's bureaucratic centralism. Second, he was for a long time the most plausible rival to Helmut Kohl as leader of Germany.

At the age of 66, he is no longer viewed as a threat. Yet the professor has retained a remarkable authority in the country and his party: plotters for the future leadership of the Christian Democratic Party do well to consult King Kurt. He can think conceptually and strategically. The Chancellor's office, by contrast, confused strategy with scheduling. Somehow, anyhow, the Kohl team has to squeeze in European monetary union, overhaul the social welfare and taxation systems, move the political capital to Berlin and win a general election in the next three years. The grand vision of Kohl's Europe is being

scaled down accordingly. But King Kurt does not like Europe intervening in domestic subsidies and could just derail King Kohl, even if he cannot seize the throne in Bonn. Herr Kohl's irritation with him is obvious.

Professor Biedenkopf promised

Volkswagen about £65 million in subsidies to encourage it to build up — or rather re-establish — a car industry in Saxony. The original arrangement was reached in 1991 and as far as the Saxon leader was concerned, such special subsidies for east German industry were

provided for within the Maastricht treaty. 'Saxony would never have allowed Maastricht to be ratified if it had not been for that clause,' says Professor Biedenkopf. 'It is completely unthinkable for me that Brussels should decide how east Germany is to be rebuilt.'

## THE TIMES

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## Archaeologists pry open grim legacy of Gestapo HQ

By ROGER BOYES

IN A steady drizzle archaeologists this week began to excavate Germany's most controversial and notorious site: the overgrown ruin of the Gestapo headquarters in the heart of Berlin.

So far only a steel helmet, a bayonet and a fragment of a British bomb have been unearthed but archaeologists are hoping for insights into the workings of Hitler's secret police.

Since the Second World War the sprawling complex has been an embarrassment. The Gestapo moved into No 8 Prinz Albrecht Street — a former art school — in May 1933. A year later Heinrich Himmler, the SS Reichsführer, set up his office there. Nearby, in Wilhelmstrasse, the SS's security service created a headquarters and the complex became the bureaucratic hub of the SS.

Countless prisoners were tortured and beaten in the cells. The technical details for the genocide of Jews and Gypsies were planned upstairs. Thousands of dossiers contained the observations of a nationwide network of informers. Adolf Eichmann, later executed by the Israelis, began his career in the street.

Some 1,500 officials worked at the HQ: there were can-

teens, a barber shop, a cigarette kiosk and a flower shop. In the last month of the war, hit by bombs and reflecting the spreading chaos of the Third Reich, the intricately organised hive fell apart.

In the grounds Concentration Camp prisoners cleared away part of the bomb damage. On the night of April 23, 1945, the Gestapo shot a final batch of prisoners near the main office block. When the Soviet Army moved in on May 2, only six prisoners remained.

The following winter Germans cut down the trees to heat stoves and by the 1950s the Russians decided to blow it all up. Prinz Albrecht Street, hard against the Berlin Wall, became part of no man's land.

The archaeologists' work is the first attempt to come to terms with land many regard as cursed. While the surrounding area was bought up by international companies after German unification, the HQ was untouched.

It was decided to build a museum, but the exploration will take place before the foundations are started. But, as more information becomes available, the dilemmas increase. How much of the Gestapo administration should be reconstructed? When should the digging stop?



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CHANGING TIMES

CHANGING TIMES



■ OPINION  
With modern technology, how long before anybody can play Iago to Olivier's Othello?



■ EDINBURGH  
Clare Coulter has to carry the world's woes on her shoulders in Wallace Shawn's polemical *Fever*

## THE TIMES ARTS



■ EDINBURGH  
Pretentious, nous? Nederlands Dans Theater is tripped up by some high-flown choreography



■ MUSIC  
Colin Matthews provides a late-night musical tease at the Nash Ensemble's Prom

**I**t sounds like the plot of one of those sci-fi B-movies where people shout things like "Commander, we have a *praarblem*: the Zwoorbliks have vapored the retro-blasters!" Just imagine: an entire parallel universe (let's call it Hollywood) has been hijacked by a group of ruthless beings known as "star actors". They demand huge fees and seize control of the business. They seem invincible.

But deep in a secret laboratory, Professor Frankenstein is at work. His invention is nearly complete. Strangely familiar figures come to life on his computer screen. They speak, kiss and fight. The electronic images are indistinguishable from real stars! Soon, Frankenstein will release a movie starring the muscular Mr X and the sexy Miss Y. Except that it won't be Mr X and Miss Y. The "stars" exist only in the infinite imagination of Frankenstein's computer.

Sounds absurd? Well, sorry to wake you, dear readers, but this scenario is being played in real time. This week *Screen Interna-*

*tional* reported that a producer has embarked on "the first ever film to involve fully computer-generated actors". The project, which will cost \$100 million (a snip by Hollywood standards), involves dozens of computer programmers working for three years to create a futuristic love story called *Avatar* in which all the "actors" are digitised. The computer film stars even have a name for their new breed of stars: "synthespians".

Of course, computer-generated images have been a part of movies for several years now. Think of the dinosaurs in *Jurassic Park*, or the cute little dolls in *Toy Story*. But it had always been thought (hoped?) that human actors possessed a certain *je ne sais quoi* that would save them from being consigned to the scrapheap by the relentless advance of the techno-bots.

Until recently this was the case.

There were apparently three big problems about creating credible "synthespians": simulating the floppiness of human hair (Bob Hoskins no problem; Michelle Pfeiffer more of a challenge); imitating the natural swish of loose-fitting clothing; and handling "intricate facial expressions".

Mind you, we could all name famous film stars who have trouble with the latter.

Now, it seems, the computer wizards have cracked it. What's more, the "synthespians" won't demand \$20 million for a film, or throw wobblies on the set or fluff their lines. In short, they will be the perfect (if belated) answer to Lilian Baylis's perennial cry at the Old Vic: "Dear God, send me some good actors - cheap."

As you might expect, the imminent arrival of "virtual luvvies" has alarmed the unions. The

translated into English, roughly means: "give us the cash anyway". They cannot be serious. You don't pour \$100 million into a computer project and then pay humans to go through the motions.

Of course, nobody expects great performances straight away. It will be a while before a computer can rival McKellen's Richard III. But think of simpler tasks. How many Aussie soap-operas could be surreptitiously recast for gorgeous pouting microchips before anybody noticed the difference?

How many news bulletins, quiz shows or party political broadcasts would actually be enlivened if the humans were quietly replaced by virtual equivalents? Indeed, Russian political leaders could go on for ever, their real-life demises permanently concealed from the public by the fact that, on television, they were regularly seen to

move and respond to new crises. Consider, too, the interactive potential. What if you could scan your own voice and "intricate facial expressions", and then insert them into a classic film? You could play a mean Jagu to Olivier's Othello, or (for the more sensitive sort of chap) Scarlett O'Hara to Gable's Rhett Butler.

Conversely, imagine the creative fun you could have if you could manipulate the image of a great public figure — Churchill, say, or Michael Fish the weatherman — into your own home-movies. Far-fetched? Not so. I bet such gadgets will be in high street shops within ten years.

The worrying thing is: where will all this "virtual" stuff end? Technology has already made it possible for Natalie Cole to record a duet with Nat "King" Cole. Her Who knows? Perhaps it was. I will probably be the last to find out.

# Darling, you were virtually wonderful



■ IN THE ARTS  
RICHARD MORRISON

Screen Actors Guild is holding a seminar in Los Angeles this very weekend to discuss the matter. Its officials maintain that "even if virtual actors are composites, we would expect residuals". Which,



Clare Coulter in Shawn's *Fever*: lively navel-gazing meets socio-economic analysis

## Hopping from guilt to giggles

Benedict Nightingale finds a Marxist monologue less than convincing, a potted Bible only mildly amusing

**T**he American dramatist Wallace Shawn suffers from something far more severe than liberal guilt. He is afflicted with a mutant version of that disease which eats away flesh: a moral bug that, on the evidence of his most recent plays, has reduced his conscience to shreds. In *The Designated Mourner*, which we saw at the National earlier this year, he imagined an enraged underclass taking violent revenge on the cultured and privileged. But his earlier *Fever*, now passing through the Traverse, is a less fanciful, more philosophic piece. It explains why Shawn thinks that he and people like him deserve any misery the disposed care to inflict on them.

Like *Mourner*, the piece is almost aggressively untheatrical. The Canadian actress Clare Coulter sits in a plain chair and in cool, incisive style



It would not be hard to knock holes in Shawn's Manhattan Marxism, if that's what it is. He divides the world too rigidly into cosseted rich and embittered poor, as if there were no in-between people. In defiance of history, he acknowledges no prospect of economic change. Yet Coulter's quiet, mesmeric voice does succeed in touching anxieties which most of us suppress. Why am I eating in this restaurant, or visiting that opera, when the beggar outside is hungry and the child in Somalia is starving? How can people like me hog so much of the world's resources? Isn't it the logic that the life I lead is, as Coulter concludes, "irredeemably corrupt"?

To travel from this to the Reduced Shakespeare Company's *Complete Work of God* (Abridged) is like leaving Che Guevara and the jungle for a drink with Eric Idle on the set

asks us to believe that she is in a hotel in some Third World outback where poverty is endemic and political murder the norm. Maybe she is on a fact-finding mission for an agency such as Amnesty, maybe not. But with slow, inexorable logic she convinces herself that she is complicit with the world's oppressors and, indeed, needs them to ensure that there is never radical change, never any real threat to her wealth and comfort.

of *The Life of Brian*. It's a jump typical of the Edinburgh Fringe, but this time I found it less fun that I had hoped. I much enjoyed the RSC's attempt to cram all 36 of the Bard's plays into two hours. I thought their *Complete History of America* still better. But I am not sure that their potted Bible will satisfy believer or blasphemer, Christian or Jew.

It begins with Adam and Eve in a variety of big leaves and ends with the three-man cast in black evening dress and gold lapels, doing the Broadway version of Revelations. The bits in between scurry jokily but not too imaginatively along. Jonah appears with a plastic whale. Jacob has a wrestling match with the angel. Pilate, misinterpreting

his own name, is dressed like Biggles. There is updated Mosaic law ("Thou shalt not get away with murder unless thou livest in LA"), a pun about the computers in Eden ("Eve had an Apple") and a jolly rendering of Old MacDonald had a Farm, with members of the audience as ducks, gorillas and Noah's other creatures. How harmless can you get?

## Señors well met under one baton

BBC PROMS

Nash Ensemble/  
Brabbits  
Albert Hall/Radio 3

THIS year marks the 100th anniversary of Roberto Gerhard's birth and the 50th of Manuel de Falla's death, and Thursday night's late Prom brought the two Spanish composers illuminatingly together. The miniature cantata *Psiché* by Falla and the Six Songs from *L'Infantat meravellos de Shahrazada* by Gerhard were indeed first performed by the same soprano, Concepción Badia d'Agustí, and Rosa Mannion and the Nash Ensemble under Martyn Brabbits made a strong case for them both being heard more often.

Those who heard Gerhard's bleak, hard-edged cantata *The Plague* on Monday night will hardly have recognised the same composer in the *Shahrazada* songs (a Catalan version of the Sheherazade legend) — a product of his youthful years. These songs are of a voluptuous beauty firmly in the Wagnerian tradition, and Meirion Bowen's ravishing singing perfectly caught their seductive quality. The "glass" ovens, gentle breezes of the third song began with the aptly fragile sound of the harp, before tremolo strings led to the sonorous addition of trumpet and horn for the sparkling of the glass in the sun.

A more restrained languor characterises Falla's *Psiché*, to which Mannion and the players were equally sensitive. The mellow, almost chaste quality of this Ravel-inspired score was beautifully realised. Spring awakening is economically signalled by violin arpeggios in the last stanza (the Nash's guest leader, James Clark), with flautist Philippa Davies evoking seasonal blossoming in a few swift flutters

before the subdued but richly coloured closing bars.

Falla is humorous, more earthy mode was heard in *El Corregidor y la molinera*, a two-act *farsa mimica* or pantomime (later reworked as *The Three-Cornered Hat*), of which we heard the first act. Here Brabbits did well in bringing out the vivacious rhythms of the tale of the flirtatious magistrate.

Rhythm and colour are less crucial to Milhaud's *La Crédation du monde*, that landmark jazz-inspired score of 1923. The overture and opening scene or two were gentle but sultry, with jazz elements gradually infiltrating (the excellent Michael Collins on clarinet and John Anderson on oboe). Never before has this score seemed as subtle.

Colin Matthews's 23 *Frames for 4 Players* is frankly a tease. There are 23 frames, or sections, because each of the major and minor keys is used (the twenty-fourth goes through the entire piece). Each frame supposedly makes reference to a work by another composer, but so discreetly that it becomes a series of private allusions. Finally, the order of the frames and their corresponding tonality was picked out of a hat. The marvel is that the tonal fabric yet appears so seamless.

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**MUSIC**

Daniel Barenboim reveals an unexpected penchant for Latin American dance rhythms



**GOING OUT**

From Pulp, Kiss and Longpigs at the weekend's big pop festivals in Chelmsford and Reading ...



**GOING OUT**

... to Kurt Masur and the New York Philharmonic at Edinburgh: the top events are in Weekend, page 12



**NEXT WEEK**

Wendy Wasserstein prepares for the British debut of the play that won her the Pulitzer Prize

**GREAT BRITISH HOPES**

Rising stars in the arts firmament

DAVID TENNANT

Age: 25

Profession: Actor

**Playing in:** His first season with the RSC. His Scottish Touchstone in *As You Like It* has been greeted as the most memorable in years: manic and clever. He has also been applauded for his freewheeling comedy in *The Herbal Bed* in which he plays the Stratford gent who slanders Shakespeare's daughter. In between he is Washington's right-hand man in *The General From America*.

**Elsewhere:** He may have caught your eye, not long back, streaking around the Lyttelton stage as the pageboy in *What The Butler Saw*. He is, to boot, the chronically depressed Campbell Bain being cheered up by Ken Stott in the BBC's award-winning *Takin' Over The Asylum*.

**Comes from:** Bathgate, between Edinburgh and Glasgow, possibly best known for a passing mention by the Proclaimers. "Bathgate, no more," they sang.

**Kin:** Tennant's father is a Presbyterian minister. His brother is the managing director of Sony Music Publishing for Britain.

**Why acting?** "I was certain this was what I wanted to do from a ridiculously young age, three or four. I wanted to be the people on the television. Then I realised those characters were pretend. Then I wanted to be the people who pretended." Tennant was on screen before he was out of school, talent-spotted by Scottish TV at a Saturday youth theatre club, an offshoot of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama where he later trained.

**The downside of the Forest of Arden:** Back in Stratford, Shakespeare's pastoral idyll sounds positively lethal. The RSC's young stars — all Great British Hopes, incidentally — have been shooting around the slippery metal set. Victoria Hamilton broke her foot, Joseph Fiennes dislocated his shoulder and Tennant crippled his ankle.

**On himself:** "I have no idea how to describe myself. Tall, skinny and Scottish. Overall, I am fairly happy. Maybe a bit bewildered. Only recently the National, the RSC, seemed a million miles away. Then suddenly Dame Judi Dench is across the corridor."

KATE BASSETT



Daniel Barenboim has a Latin passion. Joanna Pitman asks him for all the intimate details

**D**aniel Barenboim emerges from the subterranean depths of the orchestra pit at Bayreuth's Festspielhaus, blinking warily as he adjusts to the afternoon light outside. We have captured him at the end of an intensive six-hour rehearsal of *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, in preparation for the opening night of the Bayreuth Festival. It has been a long day of heavy Wagnerian mythological drama, and his eyes are still bulging slightly from his exertions. It is surprising, therefore, to see how a spot of tango talk can reinvigorate a weary conductor.

Barenboim has recently developed an unexpected and passionate interest in Argentine tango. He has done sessions in Buenos Aires. He has recorded a CD, *Mi Buenos Aires Querido* (My Beloved Buenos Aires). He has done showcases in Paris, Berlin, Madrid and Hamburg and he is about to do one in Buenos Aires. He is even thinking of teaming up to tango with Plácido Domingo.

Barenboim, now 54, is a monolithic presence on the conductor's podium and undoubtedly one of the greats in the world of the international piano soloist. After 47 years on the professional circuit, he has recorded to general acclaim all

the Wagner warhorses, all the Beethoven, Mozart and Brahms piano concertos as both soloist and conductor, and has most of the remaining classical greats under his belt. He has the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Deutsche Staatsoper Berlin under his command. So what is this diversion all about? Could it mark the onset of some sort of musical menopause? Or is it merely a short-term indulgence?

"I was born in Buenos Aires and lived there until I was nine," he explains. "Tango was the music I heard every day in bars, restaurants, shops. My mother used to dance to the tango at parties at home. My cousin, who looked after me occasionally, was a great tango fan. Every time I returned to BA, I went to certain clubs to get my fix of the tango."

When Barenboim was in Buenos Aires with the Berlin orchestra last September, he turned up one evening at a favourite tango club to discover it had closed down. "I was deeply disappointed. This was the best club for tango in town and I really needed to hear the music, so a friend found a piano and arranged for two players to come and play tango with me for fun. There was a bandoneon [similar to an accordion] player and a string bass player. We hit it off extremely well and had a few

I lived in  
Buenos Aires  
until I was  
nine. It was  
what I heard  
every day



As pianist and conductor, Barenboim has few worlds left to conquer. But the tango offers him musical refreshment

fantastic evenings playing together. And then, totally unexpected to me, to them and to Warner Classics, my recording company, we decided to make a record.

"There was no fuss made. These musicians were very talented players, so we rehearsed for two days and made the record in an afternoon. It was the most wonderful, refreshing thing I had done for a long time."

Argentine's tangos are not textbook music. They are full of improvisation and rely on the musicians' natural sense of dynamics, tempo and phrasing,

so they are almost impossible to represent in a written score. Much of the music is played *a la parilla* [stir fried] in a festival of syncopated spontaneity. "I fight daily in my conducting life against this straitjacket sense of awe that the score is fixed and immutable, so I found playing tango utterly stimulating," says Barenboim.

The conductor's classical performances have a tendency to rely a little on the inspiration of the moment, and he has a weakness for romantic climaxes. So the tango repertoire, with its sentimental

decadence and rhythmic vitality, offers Barenboim just the sort of stimulating musical escape he loves.

The return to his roots has something to do with continuity and security, something to do with the delights of diversity. It also reflects a certain nostalgia — but not a sloppily unthinking nostalgia.

"I am very keen on ethnic music," says Barenboim. "I made a record of West African music called *African Portraits* last year and I like Brazilian samba. I have developed a great appetite for different sounds. There is something

free and alive and natural about them. I think they are important.

The cultural porridge that results from increased ease of communication is in danger of becoming bland if we forget about distinct national flavours."

Barenboim in public has a reputation for arrogance. In private he was charming. Many say he is difficult, often moody. If he is, the talk of tango must have put him in a good mood. He certainly left me in one.

• *Mi Buenos Aires Querido* is released on Teldec on September 4

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# The scientific apocalypse of George Steiner

Daniel Johnson on an eminent critic who believes the arts can no longer ignore the culture of science

Forget the antics of the Fringe: the talking point at the Edinburgh Festival this month has been George Steiner's "ouverture", in which the sage predicted that the future of the arts lies in science. Newspapers ran excited reports of Professor Steiner's brilliant *tour d'horizon* and not a few of the audience were scandalised by it. What was the fuss about?

At times Steiner's panegyric of this most venerable of British arts festivals on its 50th anniversary sounded more like a funeral oration: "To know when to stop is a rare but vivid mark of honesty within excellence," he declared. But he was not merely wondering aloud about the future of the Edinburgh Festival: he was raising the bigger question of whether painting, drama, music and the other arts themselves have a future.

For Steiner, there will be no more Michelangelos, Shakespeares or Mozarts, merely a "byzantine afternoon". Only science — forward-looking, attractive to youth, capable of elegance, beauty and above all originality — beckons as "brimful of laughter and sun-rise". Steiner hails the imminent discovery of a "theory of everything".

This ode to a "joyful science" must, however, be seen against the dark background of Steiner's thought: a vision of almost unrelied pessimism. His first book, published 35 years ago, was *The Death of Tragedy*, in which he charted the decline of tragic drama as the defining expression of Western culture. A few months ago, he wrote in *Prospect* about the exhaustion of the European and American novel, which could no longer compete with the best of "journalism in the high and legitimate sense". There are few forms of expression — textual, musical, visual — that have not been subject to Steiner's prognosis of doom.

This vein of pessimism runs through all his works, fiction as well as non-fiction. Repeatedly, Steiner has lamented the eclipse of Western ethics and metaphysics after the Nazi attempt to annihilate the Jews. The almost bloodless collapse of communism was, for Steiner, by no means a consummation to be wished, certainly not devoutly: "The downfall of the Marxist ideal may bring with it the final entombment of Christianity," he wrote in 1993. All our troubles go back to the Holocaust. In his Edinburgh speech he delivered once more his anathema on the Christian culture of the West: "More than arguably, European civilisation will not regain its truth or natural vitality until the causal implication of Christianity, of its founding doctrines and institutions thereafter, in the 20th-century catastrophe, are faced up to unequivocally."

The apotheosis of science in Steiner's scheme of things comparatively new, and a little surprising. It is not quite clear why we should treat the unquestionably colossal achievements of scientists any less critically than those of artists and writers, especially at a time when we are more aware than ever of the moral predicaments created by medical, biological and physical research. If the humanities were corrupted by totalitarian temptations, so too were the natural sciences. Much of modern technology, and even theory, is the by-product of war and tyranny.

As for Steiner's argument that the sciences can somehow revitalise the arts, that festivals such as Edinburgh should explore their

connections, geometrical and arithmetic: one does not have to be scientifically literate to know that the "techniques of presentation, of graphic intelligibility long-established in the arts" simply cannot be extended to contemporary scientific theory. Even polymaths such as Karl Popper, Jonathan Miller or Andrei Sakharov could not apply the skills learnt from one discipline to another, and have usually had to specialise in the end.

It was the novelist C.P. Snow who inaugurated the last great debate about the place of science in this country. His 1959 lecture *The Two Cultures* taught that the traditionally dominant literary culture of England had failed to adapt to the emerging scientific culture of the past century. Snow condemned the reactionary politics of so many 20th century writers — "Did not the influence of all they represent bring Auschwitz that much nearer?" but argued that scientists "have the future in their bones". Their cosmopolitan culture, Snow believed, could reunite a world divided by the Cold War.

To the extent that Snow's vision foreshadows Steiner's, Lionel Trilling's cogent critique of *The Two Cultures* applies to them both. Trilling saw the division between scientific and literary cultures as artificial, and turned Snow's extemalised pessimism, Faraday, against his argument. Faraday, who preferred the title of philosopher to that of physicist, would have been repelled by the limitations of scientific culture. He saw himself "not as a member of this or that profession or class, but as... a man speaking to men." Trilling's strictures apply to Steiner, too, insofar as the latter attributes to scientists "the most concentrated, innovative impulses towards the future" and ignores their philistinism. The transcendence of cultural exclusivity is just as desirable for the scientist as for the artist.

A confusion of categories lies at the root of Steiner's scientism. He and I both love chess, a game which has been seen both as a microcosm or paradigm of science and as an art-form. When Steiner uses aesthetic categories to describe scientific theories or mathematical solutions, he has — I suspect — chess in mind. And yet the parallel breaks down precisely at this point. For the beauty of a combination in chess belongs to the purely human realm in a way that scientific discoveries do not. The supreme elegance of Newton's laws of motion did not protect them from falsification at Einstein's hands: their predictive accuracy was all that mattered to science. In that sense, science is now and always will be utilitarian: humanity never has been.

Steiner is only the latest to have tried to bridge the gulf between reason and emotion, Enlightenment and Romanticism, science and art. This is a laudable goal, but God forbid that science should ever usurp the humanising role of the arts. Far from rendering art, music and literature redundant, science has taught us that we need them to make sense of our increasingly alien and inhuman world. At the dawn of the scientific revolution, the mathematical and religious genius Pascal recoiled in terror from "the eternal silence of those infinite spaces". Those spaces are no less silent, no less infinite, no less terrifying today, merely because we know a little more about the matter that fills them.

Alan Hamilton examines the Princess of Wales's love-hate relationship with the paparazzi

## In pursuit of Diana the hunted

In her long-standing affair with the cameras, the Princess of Wales often appears fickle. Even divorced, she remains probably the most photographed woman in the world, and snatched shots of her can still command a high price from foreign magazine editors. But, from her point of view, the affair goes sour when she is no longer in control.

If she visits a hostel for the homeless or an Aids ward in hospital, she makes sure that the mainstream newspaper photographers are tipped off. She once memorably and pointedly posed alone in front of the Taj Mahal, dropping the broadest of hints that all was not well with her marriage. To the dismay of many, she made certain she was filmed while watching a heart operation on a seven-year-old child at Harefield Hospital in west London.

To her, those photo-opportunities were fine, as it was she who was calling the shots. At other times, as when she announced that she was withdrawing from public life, the media attention has proved too much for her because she is no longer in charge. At one stage her mother, Frances Shand Kydd, was even moved to write to *The Times*

appealing to Fleet Street editors not to harass her daughter from dawn to dusk.

Give or take the occasional belly-crawling expedition through the bushes to photograph a pregnant Princess on a Caribbean beach, British newspapers are not the core of her problem. It is the freelance operators who stalk her constantly, relying as they do for their living on the one exclusive picture for sale probably to a European magazine.

There was a time when royal

photographers were entirely deferential, and would never have

dreamt of standing anywhere other

than in their prescribed spot at a

public engagement. But the Princess of Wales changed all that the

moment she came on the scene, and

for one simple reason: she was the

most marketable royal commodity for decades.

From the earliest days when her friendship with the Prince of Wales first leaked out, the cameras have pursued her night and day. Being stalked as she is now is nothing new: she was doored, followed, jostled and spied upon even before she was married.

There was a time when she just

about put up with it, and even

seemed to thrive on such heady

oxygen of publicity — at least once she had learnt to stop staring at the ground under a broad-brimmed hat. Now she has become more weary, more brittle and more inclined to take action.

She was furious at publication by

the *Mirror* newspapers of photo-

graphs taken secretly of her exercis-

ing in her gym. Recently, she and

the Duchess of York decided to bring charges against two French photographers arrested in the grounds of their holiday villa on the Riviera. But French privacy laws are much stricter than in England: the Duchess of York even managed to win damages from a French magazine which published the famous toe-sucking picture, which was taken with a telephoto lens and poked into a private villa garden in the South of France.

Such action is more difficult in England, although the Princess did report the *Daily Mirror* to the Press Complaints Commission for publishing a long-lens picture of her on holiday.

**T**his week's case, in which 36-year-old Martin Sternberg

was served with an injunction preventing him from approaching within 300 metres of the Princess, is not much about photography, more about the Princess.

She is the second man in recent weeks to have been warned away from the Princess by the courts: Klaus Wagner, a German doctor who had been following her and waiting outside her gym to press leaflets in her hand, had a similar injunction served on him.

Since she gave up her round-the-clock police protection, the Princess has become much more vulnerable to obsessives, whether or not they are ill-intentioned. Proposed legislation seeks to outlaw stalkers who, their victims claim, cause nothing short of psychological torture; those convicted could face up to five years in jail under the proposals.

That will not greatly help the Princess, who is fated for life to be the object of attention from the *bona fide* paparazzi, from the public at large and also, sadly, from the psychologically disturbed. Like any other famous and instantly recognised figure, she is in a dilemma when troubled by a particularly irritating stalker: seeking an injunction to keep him away merely adds oxygen to the ongoing Diana publicity fire, keeps her name and face before the public and encourages the photographers to keep on her trail.

The only hope for the Princess — and it is a slender one — is for her to avoid all public functions, charity events, interesting men, jet-set resorts and glamorous clothes. In other words, only by becoming stupefyingly dull will she ever be able to persuade editors to call off the hounds.

## Stirring up a storm in a teacup

It is absurd to compare Anglo-American relations now to the Boston Tea Party, says Peter Riddell

**E**ven for Republican convention bombast, James Baker's claim that British-American relations have deteriorated to their worst since the Boston Tea Party in 1773 is absurd. It is a distortion of both past and current relations.

Of course President Clinton's contacts with Gerry Adams in 1993-94 at 5 times infuriated the British Government. But that is largely in the past and relations are now, despite occasional differences, generally better than they were when Mr Baker was Secretary of State from 1989 until 1992.

I write this both as an enthusiast for American life and as a believer in the importance of America's continuing involvement in European and British security via a strong Nato. But that does not mean American and British interests are the same. They are, and have always been, different. Sensitive British pro-Americans fail to appreciate this distinctiveness, and hence foster misguided illusions about the "special relationship".

Before speaking at the Republican convention, Mr Baker should have read *Fighting with Allies: America and Britain in Peace and War* by Sir Robin Renwick, British Ambassador in Washington from 1991 to 1995. Due to be published in Britain soon, Sir Robin's account of transatlantic relations since the 1940s is mainly of how differences of interest have been overcome.

After all, for America's first century as a nation, relations were mostly bad: 41 years after the Boston Tea Party, British forces occupied Washington, while several times during the 19th century the countries nearly came to blows. In this century, differences have been frequent even during wartime co-operation, as the Roosevelt-Churchill correspondence has shown. In the postwar era, the Suez conflict exposed a far wider gulf than anything in recent years.

Relations were certainly close during the Thatcher-Reagan years. Her unusual influence over American policymaking then did not prevent differences over the American invasion of Grenada or trade. That changed well before Mr

Clinton's election, and indeed before she left Downing Street.

One of the main causes was, ironically, Mr Baker himself. As Baroness Thatcher recalls in her memoirs, *The Downing Street Years*, "even the US State Department continued to put out briefing against me and my policies — particularly on Europe", until the Gulf crisis.

To some extent the relative

tilt of American foreign policy

against Britain in this period may

have been the result of the influence

of Secretary of State James Baker.

He was clearly more anxious

about handling German sensitivities than I was". These differences were aggravated by his reluctance to accept the inevitability of German reunification. Her doubts about Mr Baker are mirrored by his view of her in his memoirs, *The Politics of Diplomacy*.

The end of the Cold War was

more important than personal

relations in altering the balance

between the countries. Britain —

vital and dependable an ally

though it has been, during the Gulf conflict — was no longer so

important in the post-Cold War

world, compared, say, with Germany. This divergence was aggravated by the clumsy foreign

policy of President Clinton in 1993-94, particularly over Bosnia, reinforced by lingering resentments in the White House over the Tories' inept intervention in the 1992 presidential campaign.

On Northern Ireland, British

ministers have been annoyed by

the White House's sudden changes

of tack, apparently to appease the

vocal Irish-American lobby at

home. There was certainly much

anger at the time over the decision

to allow Mr Adams to enter

America and to meet Mr Clinton —

though, in retrospect, British officials

believe it probably assisted the

announcement of the IRA ceasefire.

Ulster Unionists and their Tory

allies have understandably accused

the President of hypocrisy in view

of his adamant opposition to any

contacts with Middle Eastern countries

and groups engaged in terrorist

activities.

The tensions over the Adams

visits have not prevented continuing close co-operation between



Stalked: the Princess of Wales

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Such action is more difficult in

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publishing a long-lens picture of her on

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**T**his week's case, in which 36-year-old Martin Sternberg

was served with an injunction

preventing him from approaching

within 300 metres of the Princess,

is not much about stalking.



## THE DOLE PLAN

Republican fortunes rest on economic credibility

With an evocative address that focused on values and virtues, Bob Dole closed the Republican National Convention and opened the real presidential campaign. His words identified insecurities felt by many Americans in a manner reminiscent of the "Silent Majority" speech delivered by his mentor, Richard Nixon, nearly thirty years ago. The emphasis of this speech was on trust, the word which will be one of two to dominate the election.

The other word is tax. Mr Dole's prospects are absolutely tied to public views of his economic programme. His stated goals are of radical cuts in taxation while achieving a balanced budget over a six-year timetable. Are they credible? Can they counter Democratic charges that the booming deficits of the early 1980s would quickly return?

This is a fundamental issue for Republicans to counter. Comparison with a decade ago can be described as misleading. In many ways the most significant element in the Reagan tax package was the decision to index-link American tax bands. Before then, double-digit inflation pushed many citizens into higher tax brackets despite no increase in real income. Every year major revenue increases came in the federal Government without politicians ever having to cast an unpopular vote for them. Washington then – unlike now – had a perverse incentive to maintain inflation.

A further factor then was the decision to pursue a vast increase in defence spending at the same time as the tax changes. Admirers of the former President assert – with strong justification – that the ultimate collapse of communism more than made up for the economic cost. Again Bob Dole has no commitment to such expenditure.

More centrally Republicans would point to two important political changes. The first is the overwhelming probability that a President Dole, unlike Ronald Reagan, would work with a Republican Congress.

## IN THE STOMACH

A disciplined Opposition may look different in Government

There are "warning shots" and shots that sound real warnings. Clare Short's most recent attack on Labour's leadership was the banshee wail of the dispossessed. John Prescott's frank comments about the strains that change has placed on Labour come from the heart of the movement. Mr Prescott is nothing other than loyal to Tony Blair; but his candid analysis of a party fighting its own instincts to find itself in office should give the leader, and the voters, reason to review the state of Labour. The disciplined movement focused on power may be a different creature in government.

Mr Prescott's comments, given in a newspaper interview, appear designed to place a gently restraining hand on the process of modernisation which Mr Blair has forced on his party. The deputy leader claims that "when change follows change, the party is bound to be left feeling uneasy". He argues that, despite the unease, Labour is determined not to allow divisions into the open and cites as evidence the Shadow Cabinet elections. Mr Prescott, modestly but not inaccurately, takes credit for the parliamentary party's decision to support the leader's slate even though, as he admits, "lots" voted for people "they could not stomach".

Shadow Cabinets have endured animosities before and gone on to govern. There was little love lost between George Brown and Harold Wilson. Enoch Powell never sat easily at Ted Heath's table, nor indeed did Ian Gilmour at Margaret Thatcher's. In any future Labour administration, Robin Cook and Gordon Brown will always find the air a little frosty between them – although they are unlikely to go as far as Canynge and Castlereagh, ministers in the Duke of Portland's Government who fought a duel. It was not, however, Mr Cook, or even Mr

Brown, who is likely to have been one of the Shadow Cabinet members who inspired loathing in the bowels of the Labour movement. Harriet Harman is the colleague who benefited most from Mr Prescott's ability to impose order. Mr Blair's reluctance to hold Shadow Cabinet elections was driven by his knowledge of her vulnerability, an impression confirmed by her scraping home last of those elected.

Ms Harman's unpopularity is, superficially, a consequence of her decision to send her son to a selective school in defiance of party policy. Her decision certainly enraged activists but the dislike colleagues feel towards her runs far deeper and poses problems for Mr Blair. A metropolitan moderniser, she irks a parliamentary party still deeply traditional; the instinctive hostility she inspires goes beyond the personal into an expression of unhappiness not just with the pace, but with the whole direction of Mr Blair's project. The inability of Labour MPs to "stomach" colleagues such as Ms Harman now does not suggest that they will be docile supporters of her as a minister when she makes the difficult decisions government demands and disappoints the client groups who expect so much of Labour.

If Labour wins the next election its parliamentary intake will be more in Mr Blair's mould. But, as with the Tory class of 1979, it will include talented dissidents. Although victory would hand Mr Blair authority of a kind no Labour leader has known since Attlee, it will also release backbenchers from fear that dissent will cost a looming election. The unease at internal upheaval which Mr Prescott has aired is intended to act as a brake on Mr Blair's enthusiasm for change. What his words reveal about Labour may also act as a brake on public enthusiasm for Mr Blair.

## PITCH BABEL

Ich bin sick as un perroquet

It is five hundred years since the first foreign language phrase books appeared on the playing fields of England. New economic opportunities gradually made Renaissance migrants more conscious of their deficiencies in language. The best common argot – in their case Latin – became all too clearly inadequate. Polyglot dictionaries with up to 11 languages appeared – and have never left the shelves.

European football has always had its own argot too – a mixture of monosyllabic English and multi-digital abuse. But this season its dark age may be over. A new era in language courses, tapes, books and CDs for referees is about to begin. When the teams took the field for Euro 96 three months ago, spectators felt great sympathy for the referees, hailing from anywhere between Connemara and Croatia, who were faced with communications problems which seemed to multiply with every game. Something more than sympathy will be needed for those who must govern the rainbow coalitions of the Premier League which starts today. Week-in, week-out, the teams will contain speakers of more different languages than ever before.

West Ham enter the new season with a squad containing eight nationalities speaking seven languages. These are not just the languages you might learn in school. There

was a time when a well-educated ref understood enough French to tell the difference between Eric Cantona giving him a bit of verbal or a few philosophical insights. But the men policing West Ham's games will be handling players whose mother tongues include Czech, Danish, Portuguese and Finnish. The money which has flowed into British football from television has acted as a magnet for other nationalities. Chelsea start the season with a Dutch player-manager and two newly-signed superstars from Italy. Blackburn have just signed their first Greek.

So far, referees have relied on the spoken language of foreign players, sign language or on preselecting an English player who can act as an interpreter. With Premiership players from a total of 31 countries besides Britain, improvisation may one day fail. Informal interpretation takes time and television is an impatient medium. Could simultaneous interpreters stationed in glass booths beam down instant translations to a referee's head? Not unless they also had binoculars and could read lips.

Perhaps illuminated hoardings could flash "You gotta be kidding!" or "I can't believe you didn't see that, ref" when the original has been yelled in Slovenian or Swedish. "Ich bin sick as un perroquet" will not always be enough.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Church role after a priest's murder

From the Right Reverend Gavin Reid, Bishop Suffragan of Maidstone

Sir, Thank you for your moving editorial "Priest in the city", August 15 on the tragic death of the Reverend Christopher Gray (report, August 14: "Reflection on the death of a vicar", August 15; obituary, August 16).

The reality of the Church of England has very little to do with synod debates, in-church pressure groups, or the pronouncements of bishops. It has everything to do with its dogged and often courageous parish priests and the many faithful laymen and laywomen who keep witness to Christ alive in every part of this country. Christopher Gray was a fine example and there are many others.

In my experience few things bring more discouragement to these fine people than the withering scorn aimed at the "Church of England" that continually comes from some sections of the press. Your affirming coverage is, therefore, all the more encouraging even though the reason for the items is desperately sad.

Yours etc,  
GAVIN MAIDSTONE,  
Bishop's House,  
Pen Lane, Charing, Ashford, Kent.  
August 13.

From the Right Reverend Roger F. Sainsbury, Area Bishop of Barking

Sir, Your leading article comments that the best answer to the tragic death of the Reverend Christopher Gray is "not retreat but engagement". I would agree wholeheartedly with this comment and would want to emphasise that the Church of England is totally committed to staying in the city.

But as a responsible pastor, being aware of the dangers from personal experience of 30 years of urban ministry, I would also want to support those clergy who are urging a review of security for all priests. I have therefore already written to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York asking that, as a matter of urgency, we look at the issues of security at the next House of Bishops meeting.

Yours sincerely,  
ROGER BARKING  
(Chairman, Bishops' Advisory Group for Urban Priority Areas),  
Barking Lodge,  
110 Capel Road, Forest Gate, E7.

From Mrs Stella Job

Sir, I was deeply moved to hear of the murder of Christopher Gray, the Liverpool vicar. It was a tragic event, and I share the sorrow of his family, friends and congregation.

I work in a church where daily we encounter people who can be volatile because of mental illness or addictions. Some have a positive role in the church, but occasionally people are verbally or even physically violent. We could close our doors to these people and be "safe". But then we would deny our call to continue the ministry of Jesus.

We regularly review our security in order to minimise the risks as far as we can, but we cannot jeopardise the work we are called to do.

It is my sincere hope that Christopher Gray's death will not cause Christians to withdraw from those who are rejected by society. I am sure he would not have wanted that. I hope that church councils will carefully consider the security of their clergy and staff, but I hope, too, that Christians will see Gray as an example of someone whose death, although tragic, is not a waste. It witnesses to the self-giving love of Christ.

Yours faithfully,  
STELLA JOB,  
Flat 2, 25 Grove Park Gardens, W4.  
August 16.

### Building in the City

From Mr Paul Drury

Sir, English Heritage is far from having "cleared the way for a massive new building" on the site of the old Baltic Exchange as suggested by the former Chief Executive and Secretary of the Baltic Exchange (letter, August 10).

The only consent granted is for a new building on the site which would incorporate the significant parts of the bomb-damaged Grade II\* listed building. As yet, we have not seen the details of Sir Norman Foster's proposals for a 90-storey building, although we expect a formal planning application in the autumn. However, as the Government's principal adviser on the conservation of the built heritage, we have many reservations about the impact a tower of this scale would have on London, quite apart from the unresolved issue of the future of the facade and hall of the Baltic Exchange.

As I wrote to the City Corporation in March: "The total demolition of a Grade II\* listed building is not a matter to be taken lightly." This remains our position.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL DRURY  
(Conservation Director,  
London and South East Region),  
English Heritage,  
23 Savile Row, W1.  
August 14.

Weekend Money letters, page 33

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

### Short shrift for Tory attack on Blair

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

From Mr Michael Smith

Sir, I am confused by Mr Portillo's definition of the "New Labour – New Danger" publicity campaign ("The eyes have it, not the lips", August 13).

He tells us not to be misled by Mr Blair but to listen to Mr Blair's critics within the Labour Party and to see for ourselves the "danger" we are in before deciding how to vote in the election.

Not so long ago, there was a huge rebellion of Conservative MPs (led by a member of the Cabinet, no less) against Mr Major. Are we expected to believe that this has now died down? Have these rebel MPs been coerced into "unity" by "dark forces" within Conservative Central Office? Are we to follow Mr Portillo's advice and listen to Mr Major's critics within the Conservative Party before passing judgment on the Prime Minister?

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL SMITH,  
37 High Oak Road,  
Ware, Hertfordshire.  
August 13.

From Mr David Gale

Sir, The concern of commentators should not be about the pathetic attempt to "demolise" Tony Blair, but the debasement of the Conservative Party by inept and objectionable ministers. In this regard, it comes as no surprise to find Michael Portillo vigorously defending the indefensible.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID GALE,  
37 Harlech Road, N14.

From Lord Poole

Sir, What a namby-pamby nation of milkshakes we seem to have become in this age of eggshell-treading political correctness. What would the political writers of the 18th and 19th centuries have thought of the pathetic reaction to the latest Conservative advertising? In this grey world we inhabit we

with reality. Not so long ago, Idi Amin would have been a candidate.

Yours etc,  
DAVID FLINT  
(Dean, Faculty of Law),  
University of Technology, Sydney,  
PO Box 123, Broadway,  
NSW 2007.  
August 14.

From Mrs Heather Pearn

Sir, The Queen has been a most superb head of the Commonwealth. Why change something that could not be bettered?

Yours faithfully,  
HEATHER PEARN,  
Roundwell House,  
South Petherton, Somerset.

From Mr Raymond Wood

Sir, God save the Queen – and all her royal subjects – from the Fabian Society.

Yours faithfully,  
RAYMOND WOOD,  
The Castle House,  
Long Street, Sherborne, Dorset.

Has he any notion of the number of cows which are being relentlessly slaughtered? Well, it is 320,000 to date, and the full cull has not yet begun.

What are the facts to justify this action? The Government's advisers think that it is "possible" that the 12 cases of CJD could be related to BSE, and this "possibility" is wrecking the agricultural economy throughout the country.

Last week I felt physically sick when the abattoir rang to ask about the size of some of our cattle which were being taken for slaughter. I asked the caller why he wanted to know and he replied, "Well, we can get more cattle into the skip, and therefore we make more money. We get paid by the number of heads". Once again, these were beautiful cattle which I had watched for many months contentedly grazing outside my kitchen window.

These events made me wonder if the average man in the street realises that a "cattle holocaust" is taking place.

Yours sincerely,

DOREEN FORSYTH,  
New Barns, Warkworth,  
Morpeth, Northumberland.  
August 7.

From Mr M. S. Thurman

Sir, I write as a senior examiner for A level for most of the 1980s and a lecturer in the further education sector for some 25 years, in response to your report of August 12 on the 14 per cent mark reputedly necessary to gain a C-grade pass mark in GCSE-level maths.

The "market" economy was having its effects on A-level grades as long as ten years ago. My board was considered "hard". In college we routinely entered weaker candidates for a board which, from experience, we knew was more likely to award them a pass grade.

All my colleagues were equally aware of a hierarchy in difficulty in various boards. My board, fearing they might be losing candidates to others, lowered its own standards.

When boards need candidates and schools/colleges need good pass rates, allowing the market economy a major part in the process can be extremely dangerous.

Yours faithfully,  
M. SHIRLEY THURMAN,  
Erbistock, Heath Lane,  
Willaston, South Wirral.  
August 12.

From Mr P. L. Wheeldon

Sir, If we accept the suggestion that A levels are getting easier because more candidates pass them, can we assume that Mount Everest is becoming smaller because greater numbers of climbers manage to reach its summit?

Yours faithfully,  
P. L. WHEELDON  
(Deputy Headmaster),  
Carre's Grammar School,  
Northgate, Sleaford, Lincolnshire.  
August 15.

### A level playing field for exams?

From Professor Emeritus  
Luke Herrmann

Sir, Even though it is August it comes as a surprise to someone of my generation that A-level results and grades are headline news. A month ago university degree results were also in the headlines. In both cases the rise in the award of higher grades and classes has caused concern, and it is felt that standards must have fallen. This is, of course, hotly denied by schools and universities.

However, it may be that behind the higher rates of top A-level grades and of first and upper second-class degree results is the feeling among examiners that this is the only way of compensating today's students for the continuing decline in teaching standards and facilities. These are the inevitable result of the constant pruning of government finance for education.

In universities the authorities have chosen to compensate staff for the decline in their working conditions by easier promotion, especially to chairs. Good education can never be cheap; government action (it can not be called policy) over the last decade has degraded education in this country.

Yours faithfully,  
LUKE HERRMANN

(Professor, History of Art,

University of Leicester, 1973-89),

The Coombes, Sibbertoft,

Market Harborough, Leicestershire.

August 15.

From Mr Mel Owen

Sir, If the increase in A-level exam results were really due to improved teaching then one would expect to see very much wider variations in improvement. It stretches credibility to beyond breaking point to expect the overwhelming majority of teachers throughout the land to have achieved almost the same improvement over the same 12-month period.

What we seem to be seeing is a reasonably uniform rise that is generally independent of subject, school or teacher. The only two mechanisms that can achieve this are widespread exam simplification or widespread over-marking.

Surely it is for Steve Sinnott, of the National Union of Teachers, to explain away this obvious fact rather than to denigrate as a "nasty little group" those of us who are only drawing attention to the blindingly obvious (report, August 15).

Yours faithfully,

MEL OWEN,

Blue Rose Farm, Parkhall Road,

## SOCIAL NEWS

## Royal engagements

**TODAY:** The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by the Princess Royal and Captain Timothy Laurence, will disembark from *HMY Britannia* at Aberdeen at 10.15; will arrive at the Main Gate, Balmoral Castle, at 11.30, where The Queen will present the new Ballater Colour to The Queen's Guard.

## Weekend birthdays

**TODAY:** Mr Ian Brindle, senior partner, Price Waterhouse, 53; Mr Hugo Brumer, Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, 61; Mr C.A.M. Busch, former chairman, Philips Electronics and Associated Industries, 59; Mr Jim Courier, tennis player, 26; Mr Robin Cousins, ice-skater, 39; Mr Robert De Niro, actor, 53; Mr D.L. Donne, former chairman, Argos, 71; Sir Leonard Figg, diplomat, 76; Mr J.G. Gulliver, founder, Argyll Group, 66; Mr Ted Hughes, Poet Laureate, 66; Mr John Humphrys, broadcaster, 53; Miss Elizabeth Llewellyn-Smith, Principal, St Hilda's College, Oxford, 62; Mr I.G. McAllister, chairman, Ford Motor Company, 53; Mr Graham McCourt, racehorse trainer, 37; Mr Seamus Mallon, MP, 60; Professor Sir Leslie Martin, architect, 88; Mr George Melly, jazz singer, 70; Mr Alan Minter, boxer, 45; Sir Alan Munro, diplomat, 61; Sir Alan Nejpal, author, 64; Mr John Naylor, former national secretary, National Council of YMCA's, 53; Mr David Nicholson, MP, 52; Mr Hamish Orr-Wing, former chairman, Rank Xerox, 72; Dr E.S. Page, former Vice-Chancellor, Reading University, 68; Mr Nelson Piquet, racing driver, 44; Ms Sue Robertson, chief executive, London Arts Board, 44; Mr Barry Sherman, MP, 56; Mr Richard Stott, former Editor, *Today*, 53; Miss Alfreda Thorogood, ballerina, 54; Mr Guillermo Vilas, tennis player, 44; Mrs Susan Williams, former Lord-Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, 81; Professor Michael Wise, geographer

## Latest wills

**The Countess of Munster**, wife of the 7th Earl of Lingfield, Surrey, left estate valued at £270,205 net.

**Lady Saunders**, of Chobham, Surrey, left estate valued at £47,399 net.

**Peter William Firth**, of Staveley, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, left estate valued at £1,635,361 net. He left his estate mostly to relatives.

**Mary Rosamond Pryce**, of Burley, Ringwood, Hampshire, left estate valued at £1,337,862 net.

**Margaret Armorial Jean Hill**, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £1,247,817 net. She left her estate mostly to relatives.

**Donald Douglas McPhail**, of Pirnm, Middlesex, left estate valued at £6,166,644 net. He left his estate mostly to each of his employees of Michael's Bros, Ltd, who have completed not less than 10 years' employment £1,000 each, 20 years £1,500 each, 20 years £2,000.

**Lady (Nicholas) Morrison**, of Oxford, left estate valued at £1,244,585 net. She left her estate mostly to relatives.

**Joan Valerie Ewart**, of Kings Sutton, Banbury, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £7,928,813 net. She left her estate mostly to relatives.

**Kathleen Mary Bardwell**, of Surbiton, Surrey, left estate valued at £15,520 net. She left her estate mostly to relatives.

**Mr Walter Harry Richardson**, of Handsworth Wood, Birmingham, £881,201.

**Mrs Doris Edith Mitchell**, of Reigate, Surrey, £1,121,301.

**Mary Pamela Rose**, of Ullenhall, Warwickshire £1,223,553.

**Mr Michael Anthony Silverman**, of St Helens, Merseyside, £1,875,066.

**Mr Christopher Cawthron**, of Cattermire, Kent, £1,155,500. He left his estate to each of his employees of Michael's Bros, Ltd, who have completed not less than 10 years' employment £1,000 each, 20 years £1,500 each, 20 years £2,000.

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## OBITUARIES

## CHARLES HADFIELD

Charles Hadfield, CMG, canal historian and publisher, died on August 6 aged 87. He was born on August 5, 1909.

Charles Hadfield's career was in publishing and the Civil Service, but he will be best remembered for his contributions to the study — and the making — of inland waterway history. His research defined British canal history as a new field for serious study; without his contribution, the subject might have remained largely the province of the amateur. His efforts as a campaigner, and as a member of the first British Waterways Board, helped to ensure the preservation and continued use of Britain's inland waterways.

The only child of a New Zealand-born colonial magistrate and a nurse from Devon, Charles Hadfield was born in the Northern Transvaal and grew up in South Africa. He came to Devon in 1923 and graduated from St Edmund Hall, Oxford, in 1932 with a degree in Economics.

He had a varied career in publishing before joining the Fire Service during wartime. He returned to the Oxford University Press in 1945, but joined the Central Office of Information in 1946, first as director of publications and controller (overseas), from which he retired in 1962.

Between 1934 and 1945 he was a Labour member of Paddington Borough Council. His wartime service was with the Fire Service of London, and he was actively involved in the Fire Brigades Union between 1940 and 1942. During the 1940s he co-wrote the seven-volume *Manual of Firemanship* and, with James McColl MP, a number of books on local government.

He helped to found the Inland Waterways Association in 1945-46, but was unable to work with some of



Charles Hadfield and his wife, Alice Mary, next to the Sapperton Tunnel on the Thames and Severn Canal

the more emotional members of the pressure group. However, he rejoined the association after 1971 and founded the Inland Shipping Group, which seeks the development of modern freight waterways. In 1975 he fostered the formation of the National Waterways Transport Association.

Hadfield was a member of the first British Waterways Board from 1963 to 1966, and played an important part in formulating the case for the subsidised preservation of most of the smaller British inland waterways for amenity purposes, which was published in the *Economic History Review* in 1942. More general research followed during wartime leave in London, into records such as those held by the Institution of Civil Engineers. Between 1945 and

tent upon unsentimental argument, rooted in a strong basis of fact. This may not have appealed to some of the more idealistic among his fellow canal enthusiasts, but it undoubtedly helped to retain parts of the heritage of Industrial Revolution canals and useful transport facilities which could well have been lost, given the board's dire financial position.

He followed an interest in his local canal, the Grand Western in Devon, from the age of 16, and his early research into its history was published in the *Economic History Review* in 1942. More general research followed during wartime leave in London, into records such as those held by the Institution of Civil Engineers. Between 1945 and

1963 he wrote or co-wrote more than 20 books on the history of British inland waterways.

Before 1945 the history of canals and inland waterways had not been systematically studied and occasional publications were based mostly on secondary sources and hearsay. After the British Transport Historical Records archives were opened, Charles Hadfield pioneered research into canal history based on primary sources and painstaking fieldwork. By 1977 an authoritative account of every canal in the British Isles had been laid out in a series of 15 regional volumes of which Hadfield had written the majority relating to England and Wales and had edited the remainder.

In 1954 he was the only canal historian among those who founded the Railway and Canal Historical Society, of which he was president from 1961 to 1963; his initiatives included the widening of its scope to include the history of roads, docks and coastal shipping, and air transport. He especially encouraged the study of trams (early horse railways), and himself wrote an important account of atmospheric railways.

In 1960 he co-founded David & Charles, initially a small specialist transport and regional publishing firm, based in Devon; this grew to become a major publisher of non-fiction. Hadfield resigned his directorship in 1964, but remained as editor. David & Charles published numerous histories of inland waterways,

and pioneered regional studies of railway history and industrial archaeology.

Hadfield was keen to encourage other serious researchers to produce transport histories, often assisting with access to his own notes, along with detailed editing.

In this way, he enabled enthusiasts for history to become canal historians channelling their researches into the publication of properly sourced and accurate books. Many projects would have remained unpublished (and perhaps unpublishable) without his encouragement and advice.

After 1974 he turned his attention to the history of inland waterways throughout the world, published as *World Canals* in 1986. Noting the domination of popular accounts of canal engineering by Brindley and Telford, he studied the work of William Jessop, the most prolific canal engineer, to whom Smiles's *Lives of the Engineers* had devoted a single page. He also contributed to a study of John Smeaton, and, in his last and somewhat controversial book, raised doubts about the contribution of Thomas Telford to co-engineered by William Jessop.

Charles Hadfield was not an academic historian, and had no engineering training, but he produced work to high scholarly and professional standards, which did not perhaps achieve the academic recognition it deserved. In the field of transport history, where studies often reflected amateurish dogma, inaccuracy and hearsay, he succeeded in developing a mercifully accurate factual basis. His work will continue to provide an important reference for historians of industry, engineering and other forms of transport, and for industrial archaeologists.

His wife Alice Mary died in 1989, but he is survived by four children.

## JEAN MUIR



Jean Muir, American actress, died on July 23 aged 85. She was born on February 13, 1911.

JEAN MUIR was a lovely, tall, talented actress who had the misfortune to work in Hollywood at a time when any outspokness or deviation from the norm was regarded with suspicion. In 1950 she was one of the first actresses to be blacklisted on suspicion of Communist activity, even though she had never been officially linked with the party, or even had particularly radical sympathies. The mere suspicion of links with Communism was enough in those days to scupper a Hollywood career.

Jean Muir Fullarton, as she was christened, was born in Missouri. Her father was an accountant, her mother a teacher. But she had set her heart on acting by the age of nine. After studying French at the Sorbonne, she was sailing back to America when she fell in with an English theatre group who were taking a play to Broadway. She became their understudy, and appeared in several shows. In 1933, when she was starring in a production of *Saint Wench*, she was spotted by a Hollywood scout, and signed a contract with Warners.

By 1934 Muir was earning her living by teaching drama, directing in community playhouses in Manhattan and doing the odd inconsequential television part. Her marriage was over, and she had become an alcoholic. But when told that she was terminally ill, in an extraordinary show of will she plucked herself back from the brink of ruin, gave up alcohol and returned to acting in a Broadway production of *Semi-Detached* (1960).

In 1968 Stephen's College in Columbia, Missouri, asked her to head its new drama department, and she remained there until 1976. Even though by now 55, she subsequently took teaching jobs at universities in Missouri and Mexico. She is survived by two sons and one daughter.

## HERBERT HUNCKE



Herbert Huncke, writer, died in a New York hospital on August 8 aged 81. He was born in Greenfield, Massachusetts, on December 9, 1915.

THIEF, liar, drug addict, drug pusher, rent boy and jailbird, Herbert Huncke turned writer towards the end of his life and chronicled an existence which encapsulated the ethos of the Beat generation. Indeed the mythology of the movement ascribes its very title to him.

In the late 1940s a sharp-edged Jack Kerouac later to be the author of the Beat bible, *On the Road*, was apparently much taken by Huncke's frequent utterance of the word "beat". Though it was used by Huncke merely to indicate his perpetual exhaustion from days and nights of street walking, sexual activity and drug abuse, the Columbia University-educated Kerouac saw in it a good title for a dropout literary movement. A trifle mendaciously, Kerouac later tried to ascribe the label to his own imagination, which was by that time seeing in Huncke's (and his own) "alternative" existence "beatific" qualities. But the emendation has not impinged upon his mythology of that age.

Huncke was to feature in a number of Kerouac's novels long before he began to write himself. True, he did not get a major role as one of the three

bums who are the central characters in *On the Road* (1957). But he had already featured (not terribly imaginatively disguised) as Junkey (with whom his surname rhymes), the protagonist of *The Town and the City* (1950), a somewhat tiresome, and overlong, sub-Wolfean performance with which Kerouac made his novelistic debut. And he later appeared in *Visions of Cody* (1972).

Besides Kerouac, he had also been a mentor to William Burroughs, whom he gave his first heroin fix. As a result Burroughs put him into *Junkie* as a character. He also guided Allen Ginsberg and John Clellon Holmes through the twilight world of Times Square in the 1940s and was rewarded by the former by being named in his poems as a prototypical hipster of the type the poet hymned. Holmes put in his 1952 novel *Go*.

When he came to authorship himself, Huncke tended to ape the style of Kerouac, which was a pity. As a writer Kerouac tended to follow his nose, a procedure which worked in the shorter books like *On the Road*, but degenerated into at best tedium, at worst incoherence, when he tried to be more serious and "significant". Nevertheless, Huncke's chronicles capture the atmosphere of an age which continues to exert its fascination, spawning the Flower Children of the Sixties

and numerous other pseudoguruic movements since.

Though he was born in small-town Massachusetts, Huncke grew up in Chicago where his father ran a machine parts distributorship. His parents' marriage broke up when he was in his early teens, and it was not long before he was on the streets. He soon perceived the lucrative possibilities in becoming a male prostitute, the earnings from which financed a drug habit he had developed by the time he was 15. With Prohibition still in force, crime and Chicago were inextricably linked in the early 1930s, and Huncke also became a legman for the Capone gang before graduating to a little mugging and burglary on his own account.

Later he went on the road, eventually pitching up in New York, where he settled down on Times Square. It was in 1945 that Huncke first met William Burroughs, who knocked at the door of his apartment hoping to sell his flatmate a saw-off shotgun. Huncke at first took him for an FBI agent. Burroughs was then a suave, expensively dressed figure. He was not long to remain so. Huncke soon introduced him to drugs and set him on the path to total addiction (and a compensatory, if notorious, literary career to go with it).

Through Burroughs, Huncke met Ginsberg and Kerouac, both Columbia alumnae.

and these younger men were soon sitting at his feet, drinking in his "wisdom". Huncke had many personal qualities to attract these admiring disciples. He had been an attractive young man until drug abuse ravaged his handsome features. But he still retained a captivating elegance of manner.

But his addiction to crime as well as to drugs frequently robbed his friends of his company. Indeed, he spent

most of the 1950s behind bars. Nevertheless, he survived prison and his addiction to live on to an age scarcely anyone who had known him from the early 1930s would have predicted.

In the 1940s, too, he had met the sexologist Alfred Kinsey, who was then researching his book *Sexual Behaviour in the Human Male*. Kinsey was fascinated by Huncke's sexual life and paid him to procure more of his like to assist him with his study. "I became a pimp for Kinsey," Huncke later recalled. "He offered to pay me so much for everybody I'd solicit for him." The two men spent a good deal of time cruising 42nd Street bars which provided a mine of information for the sexologist. When the "Kinsey Report", as his book became known, appeared in 1948, it owed much to Huncke.

Later he had lived in a room at Manhattan's Chelsea Hotel, helped out by his friends. By that time he was a frail and emaciated figure; but by the time he turned 80 he could certainly reckon to have beaten the odds against his surviving so far.

Having provided others with the matter for much of their own work, Huncke eventually decided to go into literary production on his own account from the mid-1960s onwards. His output consisted of a stream-of-consciousness style description of his life, and appeared in a number of volumes published from 1965 onwards, beginning with *Huncke's Journal*. This was followed by *Elise John and Joey Martinez* (1979), *The Evening Sun Turned Crimson* (1980) and *Guilty of Everything* (1990).

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## SPECIAL CONSTABLES.

A quick and gratifying response has been given to the appeal for special constables in London. During the last few days the number of volunteers has been so large that when the formal enrolment begins today at 34 appointed places in the several divisions of the Metropolitan Police district, between 14,000 and 15,000 men will be present themselves. Representatives of all classes and of almost every profession and occupation have offered their services, and it is beyond doubt that within the next few days the 20,000 members of the Special Constabulary Force will be obtained.

Mrs Collis, a widow, of Epsom, whose husband was a soldier, has seven sons on active service.

An important subject is that of the economical use of our food supply. It is essential that the largest amount of flour should be produced from the wheat in the country. An authoritative statement from Sir Francis Fox states: "In conse-

## ON THIS DAY

August 17, 1914

These small items of news, published two weeks after the start of the First World War, shed light on a nation girding its loins and preparing to pull together.

quence of the ignorant demand for very white flour the best portion of the grain known as 'offal' is separated, and is used for feeding pigs . . . Another most important fact is that from each 100 tons of wheat only 70 tons of "white" flour can be made; whereas 88 tons of the more nutritious material results".

Another topic is a painful one; but it must be faced. A large number of correspondents have written to urge that those who lose relatives in the war should not wear the usual mourning. In

this connexion Mrs Edward Lyttelton writes from Eton that the poor will be relieved of a heavy cost; and the narrow purple band on the left arm will be more eloquent than any amount of black. It is for the richer classes to set the fashion. The London County Council has arranged that special constables, Red Cross nurses, and Boy Scout dispatch bearers shall travel free on their trams.

Displayed in the window of a Kentish Town barber's shop is the notice: "This is an English Shop".

At Gateshead, summonses against 100 miners for absenting themselves from work were withdrawn, the prosecuting solicitor stating that the coalowners felt that all ought to be united on friendly terms in the present crisis.

The directors of the Queen's Hall Orchestra announce that in response to numerous requests a Franco-Russian programme will be performed at the Promenade concert this evening in place of the Wagner programme.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

## OLD SCHOOL TIE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## TRUSTEE ACTS

## ANTIQUE &amp; COLLECTABLES

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## TRUSTEE ACTS

## DOMESTIC &amp; CATERING SITUATIONS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## TRUSTEE ACTS

## BUTLER

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## TRUSTEE ACTS

## THE RAF RISES TO THE CHALLENGE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## TRUSTEE ACTS

## THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## TRUSTEE ACTS

## PRIVATE SECRETARY: BLENHEIM PALACE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## TRUSTEE ACTS

## OXFORDSHIRE 0X20 1PX

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## TRUSTEE ACTS

## WOODSTOCK

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## TRUSTEE ACTS

## OXFORDSHIRE 0X20 1PX



# THE TIMES



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## EXECUTIVE VOICE

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## WORKING WEEK

Former actuary who looks after number ones  
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## SPORT

New faces to fore as Premiership season kicks off  
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THE HIDDEN ASSETS OF RENAULT  
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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY AUGUST 17 1996

## Cabinet's De Lorean papers made public



BY ERIC REGULY

SECRET government papers, including minutes of Cabinet meetings with Margaret Thatcher, the former Prime Minister, have been made public in the 11-year-old De Lorean Motor Cars case in New York.

Their disclosure is unprecedented: Cabinet minutes have never been put on the public record in litigation. The documents cover the series of meetings between 1978 and 1982, when the Government pumped more than £70 million into the De Lorean car factory in West Belfast.

The company collapsed in 1982 with the loss of 2,000 jobs. Three years later,

the Government issued a writ against Arthur Andersen, the accountant, alleging conspiracy, fraud, negligence and incompetence in auditing De Lorean Motors, the maker of the stainless-steel, gull-wing sports cars founded by John De Lorean, the flamboyant former General Motors executive.

The Cabinet's De Lorean file was opened to the public after Malcolm Schade of Thacher Proffitt & Wood, the Government's legal counsel in Manhattan, decided earlier this week that he would not oppose their disclosure.

Arthur Andersen welcomed the move. A spokesman said: "These

Cabinet records show that ministers were well aware of the financial and commercial risks at the time public money was committed."

Mr Schade disagreed, noting that Arthur Andersen has had access to the Cabinet papers since 1991, when the court ruled that the firm's lawyers required them for their defence submissions.

He said: "These documents will not adversely affect the Government's case at all."

"The desire to keep them from public view was never based on fear that it would hurt the Government's case; it was based on the policy that Cabinet documents should be confidential."

Arthur Andersen nonetheless thinks the government documents can only back its claims that the Government put the prospect of political gain ahead of financial common sense.

In a Cabinet meeting in 1978, Roy Mason, then Labour's Northern Ireland Minister, said that it was "of the utmost political, social and psychological importance that the project should go ahead. This would be a hammer blow to the IRA."

In 1981, when De Lorean was bleeding cash and asked for a government loan guarantee, the Prime Minister, in a handwritten note, said: "I take it this is the last help we give this unwise project."

## Government finances swing into the black

BY JANET BUSH  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE City last night cautioned against government complacency about public finances after figures showed a strong and unexpected swing into the black last month. Many argued that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, still had limited scope to cut taxes in the November Budget.

The Exchequer saw an inflow of £1.66 billion in July, far bigger than a surplus of a few hundred million that the City had expected at best. In addition, the public sector borrowing requirement for June was revised down to £3.48 billion from the £3.65 billion previously reported.

The inflow came partly because of a seasonal surge in corporation tax — as well as healthy receipts of value-added tax and income tax — and £84 million of privatisation proceeds, mainly from the flotation of British Energy.

Including privatisation, the overall picture looks healthier than last year. The cumulative PSBR over the first four months of the current tax year is £2.77 billion. That compares with £2.13 billion at the corresponding stage last year.

However, if privatisation is stripped out, the cumulative position so far in 1996 is a PSBR of £1.0 billion, only just more than £1 billion better than the £1.21 billion at the same stage last year.

Kevin Darlington, of ABN-Amro Hoare Govett, said: "A



Source: Datastream

requirement, which was a substantial upward revision from the £22.5 billion pencilled into last November's Budget.

Martin Brookes, of Goldman Sachs, is less pessimistic for the year as a whole, forecasting a PSBR of just over £28 billion. However, he noted that would still be uncomfortably high at about 4 per cent of gross domestic product. To give a yardstick for comparison, this is well above the 3 per cent upper limit for govern-

ment deficits laid out in the Maastricht treaty.

However, yesterday's figures allay some of the worst fears for public finances this year. In earlier months, there was an unexplained and worrying shortfall on most classes of tax receipts, particularly VAT. So serious was this problem that the Treasury began to investigate the VAT "black hole".

The Treasury said that although the black hole had not

been closed there was satisfaction with the way receipts had bounced back. Income tax was boosted by receipts from the schedule D self-employed. Healthy corporate profits were reflected in a £900 million payment of advanced corporation tax, and VAT was stronger. One potential black spot is spending. Departmental spending was up 7 per cent on a year ago.

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## Southgate says EMI not facing takeover

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SIR Colin Southgate, chairman of Thorn EMI, said yesterday that he had not been approached with offers for the music business. There has been continued speculation that after Monday's demerger the music side will be a takeover target.

He was speaking after an extraordinary meeting at which shareholders voted overwhelmingly in favour of the demerger of Thorn, the rentals business, and EMI, the music side. The two will be listed separately on the London Stock Exchange as EMI Group and Thorn from Monday.

Sir Colin will remain chairman of both companies for the first year, then at EMI alone. Both will feature on the elite FT-SE 100 index, forcing the demerger of Cookson Group, the industrial materials company.

Possible bidders for EMI are believed to include the MCA unit of Seagram and Walt Disney. "Everybody in this business talks to everybody," Sir Colin said. "But no one has ever put an offer on the table."

The total cost of the split is £70 million. Sir Colin told shareholders. Analysts expect Thorn shares to open at between 390p and 420p on Monday. Thorn EMI shares, boosted in recent months by takeover talk, closed yesterday up 44p, at £18.33.

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## BUSINESS TODAY

## BAe and Matra form joint venture missile business

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AEROSPACE and Matra, of France, have established a joint venture that will become Europe's largest missile business with a turnover of £1 billion. The agreement follows the success by the companies last month in securing a £600 million order for UK cruise missiles.

The joint venture — Matra BAe Dynamics — comes after three years of negotiations and will push the pair to number three slot in the world missile rankings. The cruise deal guaranteed the immediate commercial logic of the move that is part of a widespread consolidation trend in aerospace.

BAe is buying into the deal with an £80 million initial payment to balance the values of the two businesses but this

may be adjusted depending on the amount of orders the two companies achieve. BAe said linking the two weapons operations was a response to "the need for the European defence industry to consolidate in order to be fully competitive in international markets".

BAe and Matra, which is owned by Lagardère, will use the joint venture for further collaboration. The business could be boosted by the addition of the missile division of Thomson, the French aerospace business which is about to be privatised. Lagardère wants to buy Thomson-CSF, the defence part of the company, and if successful it would add the missiles to Matra BAe Dynamics.

The venture will be run

## Wickes names new finance director

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

WICKES, the DIY retailer, yesterday appointed a new finance director and said it expects to provide shareholders with information on the inquiry into serious accounting errors next month.

Michael von Brentano, chairman of Wickes, wrote in a letter to shareholders that Bill Hoskins, former finance director of Laporte, the specialist chemicals company, will replace Stuart Stradling, current finance director, as soon as the inquiry is completed.

Mr Hoskins's salary is expected to be about £190,000. According to Mr von Brentano, dealings in the shares — suspended on June 27 after the accounting errors which could cause a shortfall of up to £30 million in 1995 profits were uncovered — will not

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## Settlement boost for Maxwell creditors

BY JON ASHWORTH

CREDITORS of the collapsed Maxwell group of companies received a significant boost yesterday when Coopers & Lybrand in America agreed to pay \$68 million to settle outstanding legal action. The settlement, which relates to the firm's role as auditor to Macmillan, the US publishing house, will boost the amount payable to creditors by up to 3p in the pound.

The settlement is one of the biggest to involve an accountant in America — aside from claims relating to the collapsed savings and loan industry.

Mark Homan, joint administrator of Maxwell Communication Corporation, which formerly owned Macmillan, expects the projected payout for MCC's creditors to rise to 46p and 51p in the pound, compared with a previous range of 4p to 48p. A further distribution of at least 3p is expected in

late September. Mr Homan continues to pursue claims against various advisers, including a separate action against Coopers & Lybrand in the UK.

The US claim arose from the firm's audit of Macmillan in the year to end-March 1991, and the removal of shares in Berlitz International from Macmillan's control to Maxwell private companies. A spokesman for Coopers & Lybrand in the US said: "We are pleased the matter is behind us."

Various Berlitz transactions are the subject of a second Maxwell trial, which is due to start next year. Kevin Maxwell, Larry Trachtenberg and Albert Fuller face various charges relating to the alleged pledging of Berlitz shares as securities for loans. Robert Maxwell is named as a co-conspirator in two of the counts. Michael Stoney, a former Maxwell director, faces two counts of false accounting.



## A WORKING WEEK FOR: SIR COLIN SOUTHGATE

## From actuary to looking after number ones

Two days before the Thorn EMI demerger, Alasdair Murray hears about life on the road with the uncrowned king of Britpop

Monday	C
Tuesday	C
Wednesday	C
Thursday	C
Friday	C

SIR Colin Southgate may be chairman of Thorn EMI, but apart from the picture of Tina Turner on the wall of his office — "my favourite lady", Sir Colin explains — there are few clues that you are in the headquarters of one of the world's largest record companies.

EMI's playlist includes such Britpop luminaries as Blur, Radiohead and Supergrass, but Sir Colin would be the first to admit that his tastes are hardly at the cutting edge of popular music. "I have been known to go to alternative concerts, even without putting my earplugs in," Sir Colin jokes. His personal preference is for Fats Waller, Ella Fitzgerald and classical music.

Sir Colin leaves the record execs a nice — and fancy salary that totalled more than £7 million last year — to Jim Field, EMI's US-based chief executive. He recognises that the company's Young Turks are the ones to hunt out the new talent. "I am not that skilled," he explains. "You have to give the guys who do that job the freedom to choose. More importantly, they must have the freedom to fail." But it is in the EMI half of the company, of which Sir Colin has been chairman for seven years, that he sees his future after the company demerges on Monday.

The Thorn rentals side of the business, which runs the Radio Rentals and Crazy George chains, will have the benefit of Sir Colin's services as chairman for a further year. After that, the £1.5 billion company will have to make its own way in the world. Sir Colin, meanwhile, will be concentrating on plotting the future of the £5 billion EMI.

However, ahead of demerger, Sir Colin had an enjoyable week cashing in share options. Last Wednesday he made a paper profit of £2 million by exercising 1,200,000 options, although he continues to hold the shares, and then on Thursday cashed in options worth £1.25 million. Ironically, Thorn shares leapt another 44p, to £833p, yesterday, meaning that Sir Colin could have made quite a few more pounds if he had waited a little longer.

Unlike the concurrent demerger of Hanson, the Thorn EMI split has been well received by the City. Thorn is not laden with heavily indebted businesses, and both arms look well positioned to continue growing in their niche markets. "It's been a fascinating project because these were two separate organisations that should never have been put together in the first place," Sir Colin says. "But I will feel emotional when it is finally completed because I love working here and I love the people whom I have worked with."

Sir Colin has spent 12 years at Thorn gradually slimming down the sprawling conglomerate that once owned businesses

ranging from Kenwood kitchen appliances to a bomb fuse manufacturer. He grew up in New Malden, south London, and left school after his A levels to begin work as a trainee actuary. But he admits he was quickly bored by the profession and after a couple of years was talked into moving across to the growing computer industry — by a calculator salesman he met in a pub. He spent the next ten years at ICL (later ICL), the computer firm, before setting up his own company, Software Sciences, when he was 32. In 1979 he sold the company to BOC for £8.5 million, transferring as part of the deal to become head of BOC computer services. Three years later he negotiated the sale of the division to Thorn for £17.5 million, acting first as a consultant before becoming chief executive of the IT division.

But he insists that he did not move to Thorn with ambitions of scaling the boardroom heights. "I had sworn I would never work for another large company," he says. "But slowly I became sucked in and discovered that I enjoyed working for Thorn." He credits Sir William Barlow, who was chairman when he first arrived, with arousing his enthusiasm.

Sir Colin believes his experience in the computer industry has served his broader business career well. "You learn that measurements are the undisputed drivers of business, but, at the same time, you have to give management the freedom to run each of the businesses."

The decision to stay on with EMI after demerger is based on the fact that Sir Colin has always felt more comfortable with this side of the business. "EMI is absolutely a people business," he explains. "The company itself is not the brand, rather it is the artist, whether it is Shostakovich or Tina Turner."

Part of the City's enthusiasm for the demerger stems from the takeover rumours that have swirled around EMI for the past 18 months. Freed from the shackles of the less attractive rentals business, some observers believe that it is only a matter of time before a Seagram or a Sony pounces on the independent EMI. The attraction for potential buyers has much to do with the company's rich heritage that has bequeathed an impressive backlog of artists.

EMI celebrates its centenary next year so it is perhaps not surprising that its playlist — from Maria Callas to the Beatles, Elton John and Cliff Richard — reads like a Who's Who of 20th-century music. Its famous trademark — the painting of *His Master's Voice* by Barraud — dates from 1899. By 1906, the Gramophone Company, as EMI started life, was already making 60 per cent of its profits outside the UK. Even the first HMV shop, the music retailing division that will continue to be part of EMI after the demerger, first opened in Oxford Street, London, 75 years ago. The nostalgic would, therefore, have much to lament

if the company's fine tradition is swallowed up by one of the many foreign media giants rumoured to be circling the company.

Although Sir Colin could just be talking up the price, he seems to have a genuine belief that EMI can survive as an independent entity, provided that it takes a distinctly non-nostalgic approach to the future. "I am very passionate about EMI and will feel that I have failed if this fantastic asset is squandered," he says. "Obviously, if someone comes along and offers a huge premium above our planned double-digit growth rate, I will have to accept the deal. But I am quite convinced that we can stay independent on the basis of our performance." He adds: "Fortunately, most of the potential bidders have shareholders who are not going to be pleased if they overpay."

Equally, Sir Colin emphasises that he does not see a great deal of overlap between the music industry and other media businesses. "There is some relationship between music and film, for instance, in that they both involve creativity and risk," he explains. "But music ultimately consists of individuals, and artists must be allowed to pursue their own strategies."

He is also forthright about the future of the relationship between artists and record companies, hinting that it is the legal profession that is at the root of the breakdown of some relationships, most famously in the battle between George Michael and Sony, which ended in court.

He says: "The control of contracts is in the hands of very few lawyers, and they set the standard for the next contract. If they don't get it right, it damages the career of the artist. The system can only work if there is give and take on both sides." Not surprisingly, the process of planning the

demerger has eaten heavily into Sir Colin's normal working week. "I try desperately to keep Friday evening for myself, but at the moment it is not unusual for the courier to arrive with more documents and drag me out of bed at midnight."

With Thorn EMI operating a genuinely global business, Sir Colin's business weeks inevitably need careful ordering. He times his Thorn board commitments to coincide with his other activities — as a director of the Bank of England for instance — ensuring that he spends the whole week in Britain. In other weeks, he follows a hectic travel schedule to keep in touch with the company's far-flung subsidiaries. When he does relax, he admits it is the garden that attracts the most

attention. But he also enjoys watching cricket and rugby and, although it is something of a misnomer, "friendly bridge".

August was probably not the most staff-friendly time to organise a major shake-up of the business, and Sir Colin admits that it has thrown his holiday arrangements into disarray. The younger members of staff, who have children of school age, have taken priority in the scramble for slots, leaving the older staff to hold the fort. Sir Colin faces a few more weeks at his desk before he finally escapes next month. "Then," he says, "I will be back to the grindstone. Back on the road, first to New York and then to Nashville..." Just for a moment, Sir Colin seems truly to fit the part.

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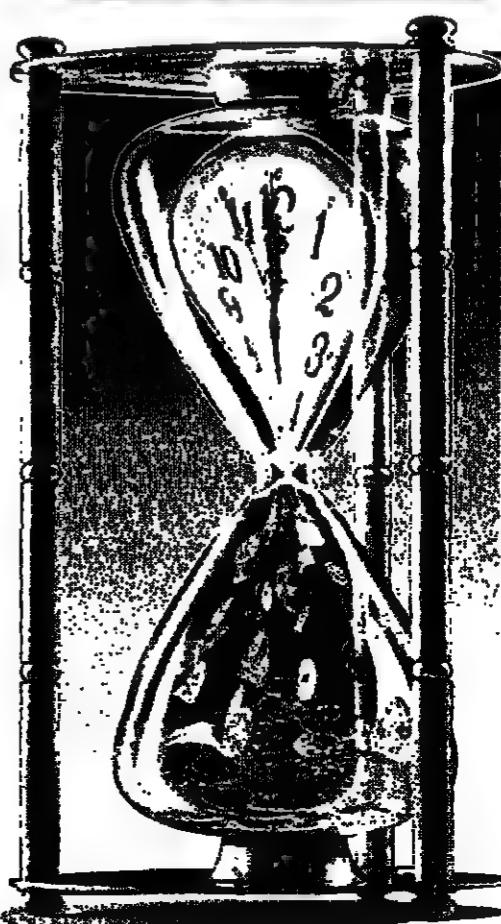
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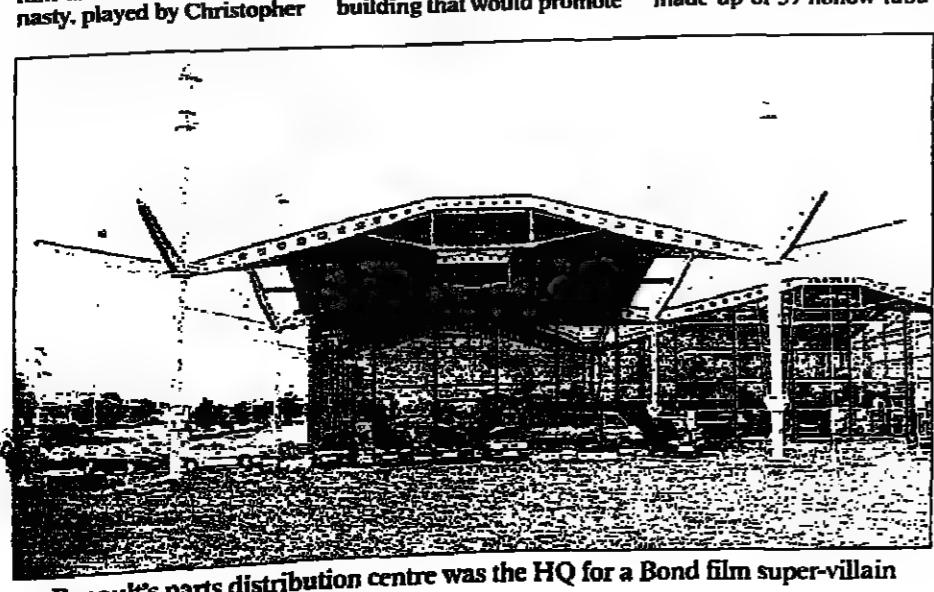
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Renault's parts distribution centre was the HQ for a Bond film super-villain

STOCK MARKET



KAREN ZAGOR

## Good borrowing figures give boost to shares

IT WAS the best and worst of all days in the City yesterday. With blue chip shares setting highs, there was much to celebrate. But volume was so thin that dealers were left nervously wondering how long the good run could last.

The market surpassed its previous records yesterday morning on the announcement of an unexpectedly good figure on government borrowing. The FT-SE 100 jumped 33.3 points on release of the data. It added to its gains by the close of trade, ending the day up 35.5 at a record high of 3,872.9. The previous peak, set in April, was 3,858.7.

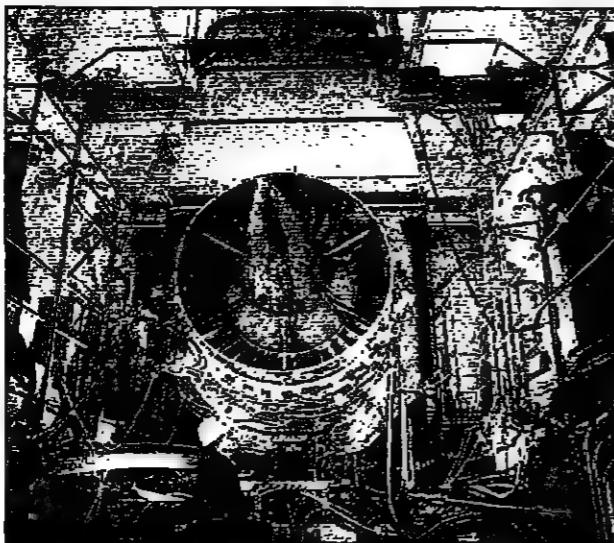
Shares were initially buoyed by the figures for the public sector borrowing requirement that showed that the Government had made a far bigger debt repayment than expected. Other factors contributing to the rise included the expiry of August index options and a strong European bond market. But sentiment had been positive throughout the week, because of a raft of encouraging economic news, such as Thursday's UK inflation figures for last month. A solid opening on Wall Street kept UK equities firm through the afternoon.

Market movements, however, and the performance of individual stocks were exaggerated by thin trading. Volume had been light throughout most of the week and yesterday was no exception. In contrast, on Liffe, the futures market, all equity products ended the day on record volume.

The lack of volume in the regular market left dealers uneasy. One leading dealer said: "It was a super day from the point of view that we hit a new high, but there was no volume. There is a shortage of stocks and market-makers, so it is very volatile. No one trusts it. How can you look at a 35-point move on no volume and trust that? I'm still not happy, though I would love to be wrong."

Another said: "People are slightly uneasy about the rise and are not willing to chase it. I think the market is being squeezed and it can just as easily get knocked down on something happening, whether related to gilt, inflation or Wall Street."

Thorn EMI was one of the biggest rising blue chips, firming 44.5p to £18.32 in its last day of trading as a unit



Ae shares listed on news of agreement with Matra

company. On Monday, it will start trading as Thorn pic and EMI pic. Until the close, it was unclear whether the market capitalisation of Thorn would be large enough for it to be included in the FT-SE 100 index. But in the end Thorn was deemed large enough to join the blue chips.

In the process, it ousted Cookson from the group of

BAD news for Balykchik Gold sent the shares tumbling 10 per cent. The shares closed at 393p, down 32p. The company was part of a consortium negotiating to develop the Kazakhstan Vasilkovskoye gold deposit. The decline followed news that the negotiating period had expired.

leading stocks. Shares in Cookson ended the day 2.5p easier at 245.5p.

When the new Thorn and EMI shares open on Monday, the predicted price for Thorn is estimated at 400p to 420p. Estimates for EMI range from £13.80 to £14.25.

In the same sector, Reuters advanced 16p to 762p in spite of going ex dividend. The shares have been ebullient in recent weeks amid speculation that a bid may be made for the

ange, the mobile phone company, eased 1.5p to 185p before its results, also on Tuesday.

Disappointing third-quarter results from Hanson continued to erode the share price, which ended the day 3.5p lower at 163p. It was the biggest blue-chip loss of the day. Railtrack, on the other hand, led blue chips higher in dividend-inspired buying. The share ended the day up 4 per cent, or 9p, at 248p.

Shares in Securicor were

firm though the day as rumours circulated that Hays Group might turn its attention to the company after missing out on Christian Salvesen.

Securicor is seen as an attractive target because it owns a sizeable stake in Cefnet and also has a large industrial side that is making poor profits. Shares in the company advanced 11p to 179p, and dealers said a bid would probably value the company at about £1 above the current share price.

Shares in British Aerospace were lifted on news that the company had reached an agreement to form a joint venture with Matra, of France, to create Europe's biggest guided weapons business. The stock closed at 964p up 11p.

Airtours used 1p to 588p after announcing a £25 million cruise ship acquisition.

Bank stocks have been strong throughout the week in a squeeze attributed partly to generally positive interim reports for the sector, partly to a number of shares going ex-dividend and partly to encouraging expectations for interest rates.

Among the winners, HSBC gained 24p to £1.74. Abbey National rose 9p to 90p. Royal Bank of Scotland added 3p to 517p, and Standard Chartered improved 14p to 717p.

In the pharmaceutical sector, Glaxo Wellcome benefited from US interest, rising 15p to 907p, but negative sentiment continued to hurt British Biotech, which lost 5p to 193p. Profit-taking contributed to an 11p drop in Chiroscience to 397p.

GILT-EDGED: UK Treasuries started on a firm note, helped by a good performance by German bunds, and were given an extra boost by the PSBR data. Dealers said there was some selling at the higher levels in an otherwise quiet market.

In the future pit, the September issue of the long gilt ended the day up 11p to 1084. Volume was average for this time of year, at 40,000. The Treasury 8 per cent, 2000 ended 7p higher to 1031.2, but the Treasury's 8 per cent 2005 improved 11p to 901.16.

■ NEW YORK: Wall Street followed the bond market to moderate gains in early trading. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 22.56 points to 5,588.34.

### MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday)	
Dow Jones	5088.34 +22.56
S&P Composite	665.54 +0.32
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	2034.00 +134.29
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	11175.98 +17.59
Amsterdam:	
Euro Index	557.42 +0.60
Sydney:	
ASX	2233.3 +0.60
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2581.38 +1.03
Singapore:	
Straits	2100.43 +0.58
Brussels:	
General	9519.71 +10.40
Paris:	
CAC-40	1079.52 +1.05
Zurich:	
SWX Gen	769.30 +0.10
London:	
FT 100	2024.5 +1.22
FT-SE Mid 250	3622.8 +13.55
FT-SE 250	4364.6 +10.40
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1935.7 +14.9
FT All Share	1011.2 +0.40
FT Main Financials	2018.8 +0.30
FT 1000	1116.2 +0.23
FT Govt Securities	93.43 +0.32
Bargains	30.72
SEAO Volume	48.2
SEAO Volume (Datastream)	300.47 +0.45
Overseas Market	2.123 +0.0040
Exchange Index	85.0 +0.2
ECU	1.2134
ESDR	1.0845
FTPI	1524.10 (2.29) Jan 1997-100
HPIX	151.91 (0.29) Jan 1997-100

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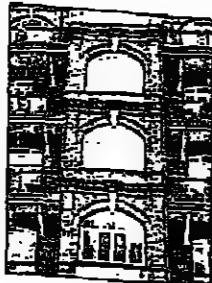
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FT 1000 1116.2 +0.23

FT Govt Securities 9



## FREEHOLDS 30

How to keep  
your own  
house in order

# WEEKEND MONEY

## INVESTMENTS 31

Options for  
savers hit  
by low rates



## This could be the end of the negative equity trap as we know it

**F**ear of negative equity is fuelling first-time buyer demand for protection against future falls in house prices. Just hours after the Halifax announced details this week of the first mortgage guaranteeing protection against negative equity, branches were receiving inquiries from potential buyers. An official advertising campaign starting today is certain to generate more interest.

The Halifax is guaranteeing to pay off the debts of first-time buyers who find themselves trapped in negative equity if they want to move house between five and

ten years hence. Buyers will not have to take their debt with them to their new property or pay off the shortfall before they can move. The Halifax says that it is prepared to offer the guarantee because it is confident that rising house prices should make negative equity a thing of the past in five years.

Other analysts share the Halifax's optimism. Barclays Bank said this week that prices could rise 5 per cent to 10 per cent over the next two years, freeing many of the 1.1 million people still trapped in negative equity. Rob Thomas, of UBS, estimates

that the number of households whose home is worth less than the mortgage fell in the second quarter of this year by nearly 350,000 to just over 750,000.

But first-time buyers, vital to the housing recovery, apparently remain unconvinced and are keen to protect themselves against the phenomenon of negative equity that has overshadowed the market for the past three years. Analysts admit that the housing recovery remains fragile. Higher interest rates, threatened again this week by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, could still derail

recovery and continuing job insecurity makes the Tories' much vaunted 'feel-good' factor elusive.

The Halifax First Time Buyer guarantee mortgage is on offer only at the standard variable rate, currently 6.99 per cent. It comes with £1,000 cashback and a free valuation and borrowers can take out a mortgage of 95 per cent of the property's value. They can borrow between £25,000 and £250,000. Anyone borrowing more than 75 per cent of the property's value has to take out mortgage indemnity insurance, which protects the lender. All

borrowers have to take out Halifax contents and buildings insurance.

Rival lenders reacted cautiously to the Halifax's announcement, pointing out that the new mortgage would be of no help to the 750,000 existing borrowers still trapped in negative equity. These people will have to rely on rising prices or existing negative equity schemes launched by lenders over the past two years. These normally involve transferring the debt to a new property to allow borrowers to move. Typically, the maximum total loan on the new property is 125 per cent of the

property's value including negative equity from the previous property. Lenders apply strict income and creditworthiness criteria before allowing borrowers to take on this debt.

The Nationwide Building Society has accepted between 500 and 1,000 applicants onto its negative equity scheme since its launch two years ago. It said: "We have the lowest mortgage rate on the high street at the moment and we believe house prices are picking up."

SARA McCONNELL

## Hey big spender — try a new deal

Cut costs, say Anne Ashworth  
and Sara McConnell, to save

**Y**ou have returned from your holiday, having been lulled into some overspending by the local cuisine of the Dordogne, or the bargains in US shopping malls. The evidence of your dining and retail therapy can already be found on the credit card statement on the doormat: nowadays foreign purchases travel home before you at supersonic speed. Your financial situation is not dire. But reducing your outgoings would help you to balance your budget better. Weekend Money suggests ways to cut the rate you are paying on your credit card, your mortgage and boost the return from your savings.

**CREDIT CARDS**

INERTIA keeps us faithful to our credit cards, a failing that the card companies exploit to make us pay rates four times the bank base rate. If you borrow £1,000 on your Barclaycard for a year, it will cost £22 in interest. In their defence, the card companies say that 50 per cent of their customers pay off their balances in full each month.

However, they do not mention that they earn interest on about 74 per cent of the total amount owing on credit cards. That means that those who do not pay off their balance are also the big spenders. And for them the average annual percentage rate (APR or true rate) is still above 20 per cent, with Barclaycard charging 22.3 per

cent and NatWest Visa, 21.9 per cent. If you are not one of the saintly 50 per cent, you can save by switching to one of the new lower interest cards from American companies now moving into the UK market.

Examples include the People's Bank card (APR 14.4 per cent) and the RBS Advanta card (15.6 per cent), a joint venture between Advanta, the ninth largest US card company and Royal Bank of Scotland. Neither card has a fee. The target for these US cards are those who borrow frequently, but are, at the same time, creditworthy.

Home-grown lower interest rate cards include the GM Card (20.9 per APR, no fee), the Frizzell Card (6.1 per cent APR, £11 fee) and the Robert Fleming Save & Prosper cards. Here you can choose between a card with a 14 per cent APR, including a £12 fee, and a fee-free card with 11.2 per cent APR. If you opt for the latter, you will not, however, enjoy the maximum 56-day interest-free period that is the major boon of most cards. The RBS Mastercard boasts a 14.5 per cent APR (no fee) and also has no interest-free period.

When applying for a new card those who have a substantial amount owing on their current card should ask whether there is a "balance transfer option". Your new card provider will clear your debt to your former card company. You are obliged to repay the money, of course, but you will pay a lower rate of interest.

**SAVERS** rates may be at an all-time low. But you can improve your return and perhaps gain from future conversion or merger windfalls by finding new homes for some of your hard-earned savings. You do not need to have thousands of pounds. The Portman Building Society has admitted that it could merge, but is determined to remain a mutual, in spite of the speculation surrounding all the societies that have not announced plans to convert into banks. Meanwhile, it offers a rate of 4.5 per cent on balances of as little as £1. Elsewhere, your rate for this amount could be less than 1 per cent. The Birmingham Midshires Building Society is now on every takeover rumour-monger's lips. The society

hotly denies the talk, but it could be worth moving funds into its First Class postal account, which pays undistinguished rates on its minimum balance of £1,000, but becomes more competitive on balances of £5,000 and over. Its First Class account pays 4 per cent gross on balances of between £5,000 and £10,000. The Yorkshire Building Society is seen as another takeover target. The society's First Class access postal account is paying 4.9 per cent gross on balances of between £1,000 and £10,000, while the Mutual Interest one-year term share account account is paying 6.25 per cent gross on balances of £1,000 or more up until January 1 next year.

Cut the mortgage, page 28

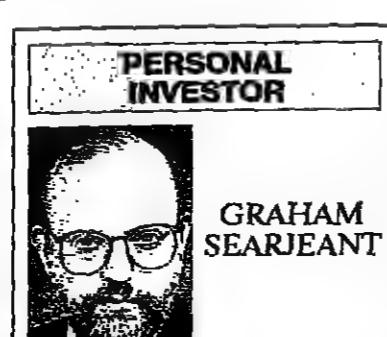
## Smoke gets in your wallet

**W**hen my grandfather sold his house and became a small investor at the age of 75, his bank suggested a handful of shares offering high income. As became clear over the years, most had good cause to sell on high dividend yields. One was different. Its profits and dividends climbed steadily and reliably, year by year, often pleasing, rarely disappointing.

This paragon was Imperial Tobacco. Four decades on, public opinion scorns tobacco companies. Their shares are yet more cautiously rated and, as shown twice this year, are subject to shocks whenever events suggest that the health risks of smoking will catch up with them. But some things have scarcely changed. BAT Industries, sole survivor of six British tobacco companies once listed on the Stock Exchange, has raised its dividend and its reported earnings in each of the past four years.

Like ICI and Distillers, Imps was created, early this century, by British companies banding together to protect themselves. The idea was to stop rampant American trusts picking them off one by one, as power companies have been this year. It worked. In tobacco, there was a US-UK deal. Imps was to dominate the UK market with Wills, Players and smaller brands. The rest of the world was assigned to a separate company, British American Tobacco.

Damages awarded in a Florida court case against BAT triggered the latest market plunge, cutting BAT's market value by nearly 10 per cent. Philip Morris, the US market leader, fell up to



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

14 per cent. This is the latest outbreak of troubles brewing for decades. Like previous setbacks, it may well be reversed; but they keep coming. Cigarette makers started diversifying by the 1960s, first to absorb bubbling cashflow, increasingly to spread risks beyond tobacco, whose sales seemed destined to decline as mounting deaths made health risks clear.

Imps bought into frozen food, crisps, beer and American motels. Some prospered, but tobacco propped up the rest rather than vice versa. A stagnant monopoly being a most attractive business. Imps was eventually bought and broken up by Hanson in one of the smartest takeovers ever. Hanson kept tobacco.

Others converted random diversification into a parallel big business. Philip Morris, maker of Marlboro, is now one of the world's top food groups via General Foods, Kraft and Jacobs Suchard. BAT is a top insurer group via Eagle Star, Allied Dunbar and California's Farmers group, which earn two

fifths of profits. These huge groups remain tainted by tobacco. That is why American Brands sold Lucky Strike to BAT, bringing the Florida lawsuit. Millions of non-smoking investors would not touch cigarette-makers. It is now easier to avoid them in collective investments too. While arguments rage over many industries, no serious ethical fund could include tobacco.

As a result, markets rate profits a quarter to a third below average. After the latest slide, BAT sells at nine times earnings and yields 6.7 per cent. The discount makes tobacco shares good value for income. No wonder it paid the Rupert family to take Rothmans private. But discounts will stay and could widen.

**I**n America, the threat of crippling damages is real. For international groups such as BAT, Philip Morris and RJR Nabisco, tobacco remains a growth industry. In East Europe and much of Asia, rising incomes are boosting sales. In declining markets, consolidation cuts costs. The worst setback to tobacco shares came in 1993, when a price war flared in America. Big Tobacco will not want to repeat it.

The next stock market test will come when Hanson breaks itself up and relaunches a lean Imperial as a pure tobacco stock. Omerta are discouraging, except for one. Seita, not-so-lean French maker of Gitane, was privatised 18 months ago. Its shares have since surged 60 per cent, outpacing the index, let alone tobacco majors. If Imperial's new independent life is as happy for investors, it may be because it is short.

**M&G top of smaller companies poll**

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For more information on the survey contact Tempest Consultants on 0171 638 8789.

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**Bid for Kepit marks start of shake-up**

A PARADE the likes of which we only usually see when rivals are bidding for a television franchise is due on Monday (Sarah Jones writes).

Midday is the deadline for proposals for control of the Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit). So far 11 fund managers, including Fleming, Schroders and Foreign & Colonial, are said to be working on their bids.

The board of Kepit will then present and recommend just one proposal to the shareholders — in time for the closing of the hostile bid from TR European Growth (Treg), the rival investment trust, which set the whole ball rolling. Decision time for the 70,000 shareholders is expected near the end of next month.

Investors will hope that the board chooses the proposal that gives the best share price — and, if it does not, rival bidders may go public with their proposals. Shareholders will then have to decide whether to stick with the trust.

But what does it mean for the sector as a whole? John Szymonowski, investment trust analyst at SBC Warburg, says: "It marks a change in the investment trust sector. Up to now it's been about launching new funds. This shows we are coming into a period of rationalisation."

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Caroline Merrell on the codebusters who recover tax

# Many happy returns from Revenue

BILL SANDERSON

Each year, about 1.4 million people who pay their dues to the Inland Revenue through their pay-as-you-earn scheme, the income tax collection system operated by employers, will end up paying the wrong amount of tax. But most of those who pay tax under schedule E, the PAYE category, would not consider questioning the amount of tax they pay, or take the time to check whether their tax codes were correct.

Many will go on underpaying or overpaying their tax in blissful ignorance until the Inland Revenue picks up the error. An underpayment of tax over a number of years could land an employee with an enormous bill. Unwittingly overpaying tax is equally annoying, as employees have to go through the rigmarole of recovering the tax.

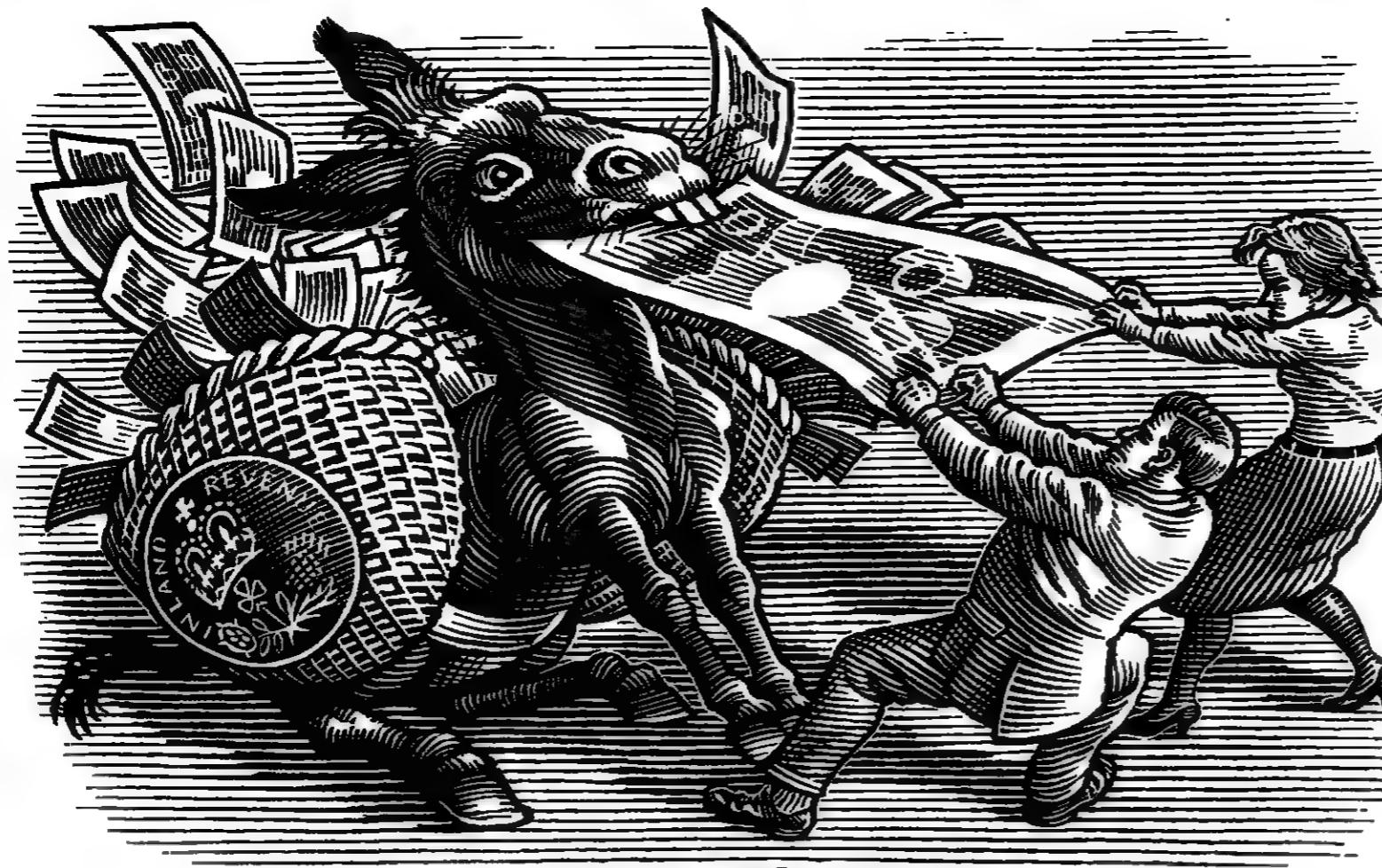
Help is at hand, however, from a number of accountancy firms. Among them is KPMG, which offers companies a workshop on behalf of their employees. The workshop is followed by a "tax clinic" that will attempt to address any problems the employees may have. The cost of the workshop will depend on the number of employees and complexity of the cases examined in the tax clinic.

Elspeth May, tax partner with KPMG, said: "One of the most important things to remember for those on schedule E who employ an accountant is that tax codings are not automatically sent to the accountant. We have to educate our clients to send us their tax codes."

The company also deals with individuals and drops in on companies to help to educate their staff on tax codes. "Around 5 per cent of employees end up having to refer to the Revenue," she added.

The KPMG workshops will explain to employees what their individual allowances are, and how they are calculated. They will also give advice about the tax treatment of benefits in kind, such as company cars, permanent health insurance and permanent medical insurance. Tax aspects of Miras, occupational and personal pensions are also discussed.

Ms May said that many of the mistakes made by the Revenue in tax coding arose because the employee failed to provide up-to-date information — they may have got



married, which could make a difference to their personal allowances, or they may have failed to inform the Revenue about their company car, which is a taxable perk.

Another accountancy organisation that offers individuals help with their tax coding is the Aims partnership based in London. Aims is an association of accountants with 25 offices throughout the UK. The service, which checks tax codes, costs £25.

One of Aims' clients ended up having nearly £10,000 of tax returned from the Revenue. The client was worried that his pay-cheque seemed somewhat small. Through Aims, he discovered that a number of his work expenses could be claimed for, which he had not realised. His tax code has now been amended, increasing his monthly income by £400.

Kingsley Samson, a practitioner with Aims in Holborn, central London, said: "It is the

## KNOW YOUR ALLOWANCES AND PERKS

### ALLOWANCES:

Personal allowance — £3,765 (single person under 65)  
Married couple's allowance\* — £1,790.  
Additional personal allowance\* — £1,790.  
Lower rate of tax (20 per cent) — charged on taxable income of up to £3,900.  
Basic rate of tax (24 per cent) — charged on taxable income of £3,901 to £25,500.  
Higher rate of tax (40 per cent) — charged on taxable income of over £25,500.  
\*These allowances, which can be claimed by husbands, wives, single parents or unmarried couples supporting a child, are

given at the 15 per cent rate of tax. The allowance is worth £268.50.

### PERKS

Employees are liable to pay tax on benefits in kind, or perks, if they earn more than £8,500. The company car is the most popular benefit. The benefit is based on the list price of the car when it was first registered. The taxable benefit is 35 per cent of the list price, reduced by one third if the car is at least four years old at the end of the tax year. The assessable benefit is reduced by one third where the employee does more than 2,500 miles per annum.

individual's responsibility to check this. Not the Government's. A lot of people end up paying up too much tax. Some of my colleagues can be somewhat daunting, which puts people off consulting an accountant."

The Inland Revenue says that 99 per cent of claims for repayment of tax are dealt

with within 28 days. Last year the Revenue got the initial tax assessment right for 92 per cent of those on schedule E. This figure fell to 81 per cent for those on schedule D, ie, those who are self-employed or who are pensioners.

As part of its move towards simplification of the tax system, the Revenue this week an-

nounced that it had revamped the tax coding notices it sends out to those who change their tax code each year.

A Revenue spokeswoman said: "As part of a major customer initiative, the new forms have been produced after wide consultation with both the Inland Revenue staff and the public. The resulting

improvements in design and content will benefit the 22 million or so people who pay tax through PAYE." The forms will give personalised details of the taxable benefits and how they work.

Last month the Revenue embarked on the first stage of its five-year plan to simplify the tax system. The review was announced by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, in the last Budget. The aim of it is to simplify the legislation surrounding the personal taxation regime.

The Revenue has issued a consultation paper, which will set the framework for the review. Interested parties have until the start of November to respond to the paper. The Revenue is then planning to appoint a committee of 40 people drawn from inside and outside the tax profession, to begin the simplification process.

KPMG is on 071 311 1000  
AIMS is on 071 831 1138

Society will allow its existing borrowers to transfer to new discounted and fixed rate loans, for a fee of £200. For example, borrowers can save money by transferring to a discounted rate of 5.79 per cent or a two-year fixed rate of 4.99 per cent. However, the Halifax will not waive the redemption penalties for those considering transferring to another Halifax loan.

In contrast, Abbey National will not allow its existing customers to switch to more advantageous fixed rates. The Abbey also announced two weeks ago that it was reducing cashbacks on remortgages in an attempt to discourage remortgaging at the expense of those moving house.

Anyone who wishes to remortgage should see their existing lender, making it clear that they will depart if not offered a better deal. For instance, the Halifax Building

SARA McCONNELL AND  
CAROLINE MERRELL

# Cut mortgage repayments and save up to £4,000

£50,000 interest-only mortgage you would be paying £291.25 a month (excluding Miras) on the standard 6.99 per cent variable rate. But if you remortgaged with a fixed rate for two years at 4.99 per cent (on offer from various lenders including NatWest) you would pay £207.91. This is a monthly saving of £83.34, which adds up to £2,000 over two years. After deducting £750 for the estimated costs of remortgaging, your saving would be £1,250. The savings would double for a £100,000

mortgage to £4,000 over two years. After estimated costs of £850, you would save £3,150. Of course, these figures assume interest rates will stay the same. If interest rates go up, you do even better. If rates go down you save less.

These estimated remortgage costs will not cover the costs of any redemption penalties associated with the original mortgage, nor will they cover the costs of mortgage indemnity guaranteed premium. MIG protects the lender against the

costs of repossession, if the borrower runs in to trouble.

The estimate does include legal expenses, valuation costs and land registry fees, all of which have to be taken into account by those remortgaging. Mr Darby believes the entire exercise takes about six weeks to complete.

Anyone who wishes to remortgage should see their existing lender, making it clear that they will depart if not offered a better deal. For instance, the Halifax Building

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Bonds go into the price draw one full calendar month after the month of purchase. Three months' notice will be given to any changes to the price structure or interest rate that makes up the prize fund.

The Director of Savings reserves the right to seek evidence of identity.

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If yes, please enter your Holder's Number

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must be in multiples of £10

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(Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms)

All forenames \_\_\_\_\_

Address in full \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth

DAY MONTH YEAR

4 I accept the purchase will be subject to the terms of the current Prospectus

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

5 If buying for a child under 16, give name of parent/guardian

M \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

(Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms)

All forenames \_\_\_\_\_

Address in full \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth

DAY MONTH YEAR

6 If buying for a (great) grandchild, give name of the parent/guardian above and your own name

M \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

(Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms)

All forenames \_\_\_\_\_

Address in full \_\_\_\_\_

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Date of Birth

DAY MONTH YEAR

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Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (1st applicant) \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (2nd applicant) \_\_\_\_\_

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# Freehold tied and tested

Sara McConnell outlines the potential pitfalls of progressing from a leaseholder under new legislation

Leaseholders who escape the clutches of rogue or incompetent landlords by buying the freehold of their apartment block could be storing up even bigger problems for themselves with defective leases or badly worded covenants.

But leaseholders who do not join with their neighbours to buy could equally find they have made an expensive mistake. One leaseholder who held back found himself with a bill for £95,000 from his new landlords when he wanted to extend his lease.

Hundreds of people are now taking advantage of the three-year-old legislation giving them the right to buy freeholds. Widespread evidence of harassment and intimidation from landlords has encouraged people to buy.

According to a survey carried out by the Leasehold Enfranchisement Advisory Service for its forthcoming annual report, more than 3,000 leaseholders have either bought their freehold or are in the process of doing so. But Peter Hales, chief executive of the LEAS, says: "People see the purchase of the freehold as the end of the story. But before they buy, they must think about putting a company together and whether to change the leases."

Failure to do this could mean deadlock for new freeholders if one flatowner does not want to pay for repairs or refuses to agree to changes to leases, and there is no means of enforcing the majority view. So what should you check as part of your freehold purchase? Here are some of the commonest problem areas:

**The Freehold Company:** When you buy your freehold, you are actually buying a share of the freehold - through a company set up for the purpose. The company, whose only shareholders are you and your

new freeholder, becomes the freeholder. You still have leases setting out your rights and responsibilities but because you are also freeholders you should be able to control what is in these leases. Avoid setting up any arrangement where you own your flat outright as a freeholder. Lenders will normally refuse to mortgage such a property because there would be no arrangements for maintenance and repair of the common parts of the building.

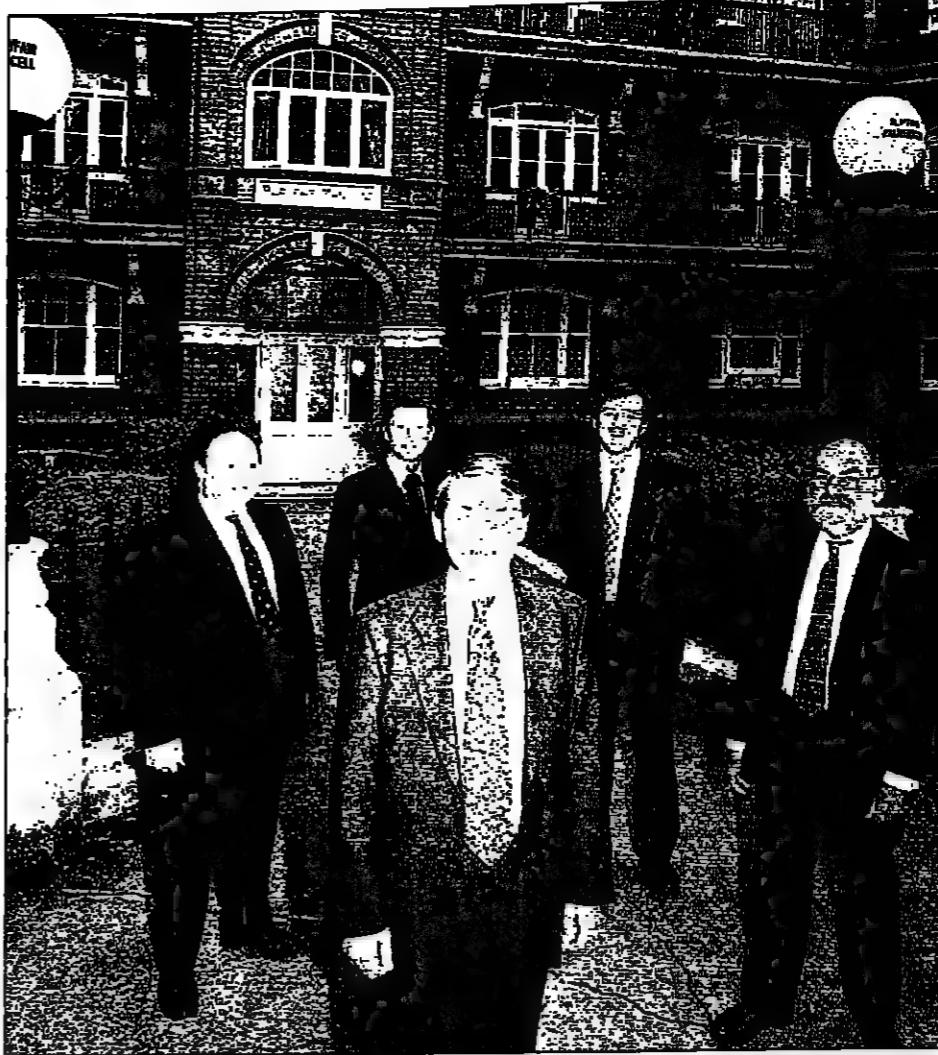
The solicitor helping you to buy your freehold should also advise you on setting up your company. "Off-the-shelf" companies are sold by Companies House along with ready-made memorandum and articles of association. But you need to ensure that you have established workable rules on necessary voting majorities, so that the majority is not held to ransom by one flatowner. Each flatowner should ideally have one share which can only be sold with the property.

**Leases:** Many leases are so badly drafted that their covenants are unenforceable or so short that your property is unsaleable. You should discuss the option of either granting yourselves new, longer, leases or changing parts of them.

**Money:** One problem of owning your freehold is that it can potentially set neighbour against neighbour. Just one recalcitrant flatowner lands someone with the unpleasant task of chasing for money. One way of avoiding this is to appoint an agent to collect on your behalf.

**Non-jointers:** Under the 1993 Leasehold Reform and Urban Development Act, two thirds of qualifying tenants have to agree to buy the freehold. This means a majority can go ahead and become the landlord of those who do not want to join or do not qualify.

**Leasehold Reform:** When you buy your freehold, you are actually buying a share of the freehold - through a company set up for the purpose. The company, whose only shareholders are you and your



Richard Williams, right, with fellow directors of the Edwardian mansion blocks

## For those willing to keep their own house in order

Buying the freehold of the

Edwardian mansion blocks that surround Queen's Club Gardens in Barnsley Court, London, was not an easy task for the faint-hearted. It involved co-ordinating leaseholders in 558 flats in 28 blocks and long negotiation with the landlord before the deal finally went through three years ago.

Now a company set up by the residents has taken over the management and oversees the running of everything from drains and roofs to the collection of service charges.

Richard Williams is one of six directors on the board of the company. He is also on the committee of the Federation of Private Residents' Associations.

He freely admits that he and several of his fellow directors have the advantage of being lawyers, a useful qualification for picking one's way through the minefield of company, landlord and tenant law. "No one can do this unless they employ their own solicitor. Solicitors charge by time so it is well worth being able to save costs by saying, 'we'll serve papers and so on.' They also had the advantage that their landlord was willing to sell and had agreed a price by negotiation.

Before setting up the company formally, the prospective board members "did a bit of work" on the memorandum

and articles. Like most management companies, the company was bought "off the shelf" with standard memorandum and articles. But the residents wanted to make sure these were drawn up to allow most resolutions to be passed by a simple majority of shareholders.

The company has an annual meeting, although Mr Williams says that many residents do not attend. This could be a problem for companies whose rules require a quorum. Mr Williams cautions, unless they can vote by proxy, as at Queen's Club Gardens.

As in many blocks managed by residents, some of the leaseholders in Queen's Club Gardens either did not want to join in with the purchase or did not qualify. But they have their own residents' association to represent their views to the company. So far there have been no

major problems with collecting service charges, particularly as the level of charges is controlled by the residents.

To avoid any possible unpleasant confrontation, the company has appointed a managing agent. One drawback of the lease (which have not been changed) is that there is no provision for building up a sinking fund. Instead, service charges include an element for future provision, which helps to iron out big outlays in some years.

The key to running a management company, Mr Williams believes, is to have "a lot of people putting in a lot of time". He adds: "Buying the freehold won't make service charges go away but you have much more control over them and over hiring and firing."

SARA McCONNELL



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John Williams



How low? The downward pressure on interest rates has meant an end to vintage times for many elderly savers

## Options that could spell last of the summer whine

**Sarah Jones looks at the choices for savers whose income has been hit by low interest rates**

If life is hard for savers these days, it is doubly hard for those trying to generate a monthly income from their savings. It's even grimmer if you are elderly and want to think medium rather than long-term, and if you are adverse to taking any risk. While there is no magic wand to dispel the problem, there are places you can go to find better returns.

There is no attempt by banks and building societies to capture that market of retired people ever more desperate to better the monthly income they can get from their savings. Indeed, a monthly interest account from a bank and building society generally means you are getting around 0.2 per cent less than you would do on the same account if you took the annual option.

So finding the best monthly rates available is simply an act of finding the best rates full stop. On a balance of £10,000 the current best rates are from the Scarborough 100-day account, which pays 6.25 per cent gross (6.5 per cent for the annual option), First National's 90-day account at 6.05 per cent (6.2 per cent annual), Bristol & West's Postal Deposit at 5.7 per cent (5.8 per cent annual) and Coventry's Postal 50 at 5.6 per cent (5.7 per cent annual). Building societies will also offer a monthly option on their longer-term, fixed-rate bonds. At Norwich & Peterborough, for example, the five-year Fixed Interest Bond pays 7.35 per cent gross (7.6 per cent annual).

Since analysts forecast another base rate cut, which will shave even more off savings rates, and that even when rates climb they will never reach the heady days of 15 per cent, it pays to take some money elsewhere. Where you go depends in part on your attitude to risk, your age and how much income you need to generate. You need to be realistic about the level of income you can get. If you take

too much income you will reduce your capital. You may be at a stage in life where capital protection is not important. However, your capital may need to last another 30 years.

### NATIONAL SAVINGS

The best place to start for absolute security if you are over 60 is National Savings Pensioners Guaranteed Income Bond. It involves a five-year investment of £500,000, but the income is paid gross each month at a fixed rate. The current bond pays 7 per cent. Last month Abbey National launched a Retirement Saving Bond to compete with National Savings. While the annual interest rate of 7.25 per cent is higher, there is little improvement in the monthly rate of 7.02 per cent. Minimum investment is £2,500.

### GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

These are usually provided by a large life assurance company. Your capital is returned at the end of the term and you get a fixed income. However, they are not suitable for non-taxpayers. Income is paid net and the tax is not reclaimable. Again, the monthly option pays less than if you take income annually.

The current best rates on £10,000 for five years are Financial Assurance, at 6.12 per cent, Premium Life, offering 6.1 per cent, and AIG Life, at 5.93 per cent.

Savers should also consider gilts, which are basically a loan to the Government. They are available from the Post Office, though they only pay out twice a year.

Gilts have a nominal value of £100, which is redeemed at the end of the term. Therefore, if you pay more than £100, you know that you are going to get back less than you paid for them.

However, in the meantime you are getting a fixed, high rate of income. For example, currently available is an issue called Treasury 7 per cent 2001, which gives a yield of 7.08 per cent for the next five years, and, because they actually cost £98, a redemption yield of 7.21 per cent.

Treasury 10 per cent 2003 gives interest of 8.83 per cent but, because they cost £113, a redemption yield of 7.51 per cent.

### HIGH INCOME BONDS

There is now a raft of Guaranteed Equity Bonds, which are riskier because although they guarantee to protect your capital, growth depends on stock market performance. They include High Income Bonds, which guarantee an income but no growth, and can erode capital. Financial Assurance has a version promising 10.6 per cent a year, with a monthly option of 8.4 per cent. You get back the original investment provided the FT-SE 100 index and S&P 500 do not fall over the five-year term.

### WITH-PROFITS BONDS

These are relatively low-risk since the annual bonuses are allocated even if the fund is not doing well, and offer a monthly income option. Interest is declared 12 months ahead so that you know what you can take up to that amount. An extra benefit is that income of up to 5 per cent of the original investment will not count towards the age-related tax allowance. Taking too high an income will affect the growth, and if there is no growth, inflation will eat into your capital.

### UNIT TRUSTS AND PEPS

Finally there will be the leap into equities, through unit trusts and Peps. While the income may start off low, you should also get substantial growth, which means income will improve. Most dividends are paid biannually so how much income you get from month to month will fluctuate.

For monthly income, Pep analysts BESI recommend the Crédit Suisse High Income Portfolio, with a current yield of 4.3 per cent. Perpetual High Income Pep (4.2 per cent) and for those concerned only about income the Guinness High Income Share Pep (8.2 per cent).

There is an alternative approach. Mark Bolland of Chamberlain de Broe, independent financial adviser, says: "A portion of your money can be in the bank, a sinking fund that you will use for income and will reduce to zero by year-end. Meanwhile, the rest of the fund has to be working at generating interest to refill the bank account. That way you build up a stream of income through capital growth."

ABP, formerly known as Associated British Ports, has been the best of the privatisation issues. Investors who took part in the first stage of the privatisation have seen their shares perform twice as well as the FT-SE all-share index.

**How has the company fared?**  
With 22 ports, ABP is the largest UK ports operator. As a result, it has been in a prime position to benefit from the UK's strong exports. Andrew Couch, head of Guinness Flight's Privatisation Fund, says: "ABP was exactly the sort of stock we would look for when it was privatised. There was great potential for growth through rationalisation, it was a high-yielding stock and it was attractively priced."

Indeed, rationalisation helped ABP to post profits in its early years. During the early 1990s, the company also benefited from its global outlook. Typically, world trade grows at twice the rate of GDP, so as world economies came out of recession, ABP was in a position to gain.

But it has not been entirely smooth sailing for ABP since privatisation. The company's biggest setback came as a result of its unsuccessful attempts to diversify, notably

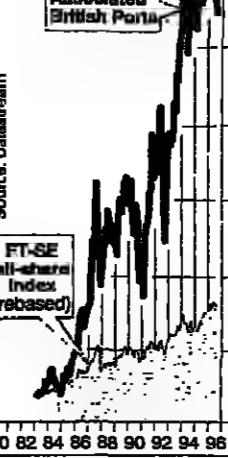
## Flotation was plain sailing for ABP



Associated British Ports

Source: Database

### NOT ALWAYS A SMOOTH PASSAGE



into property in the late 1980s. As a result, ABP suffered during the property crash of the early 1990s.

Since then, the company has shifted its focus back to its core business, and ports have been doing well. Overall pre-tax profits advanced 10 per cent last year, on top of a 29 per cent rise in 1994.

**How strong are the shares?**

ABP shares currently trade at about 285p, somewhat below their 1996 high of 313p and

their 1995 high of 310p, but comfortably above their 1990 low of 261p.

For investors who paid the equivalent of 14p a share in February 1983, allowing for stock splits and rights issues, the share price represents a significant gain, with capital compound annual growth of 23.1 per cent, compared with 11.1 per cent for the FT-SE all-share index. Those who bought into the second tranche, in April 1984, which sold for the equivalent of

33.75p, have also done well. What does the market expect of ABP?

The company's own business is solid and productivity at its ports remains high. But there is some concern that profits could be hurt by a windfall tax if Labour wins the next election, since any company which was formerly state-owned could be subject to the tax. It has been estimated that a windfall tax based on market value could cost ABP nearly £70 million.

However, ABP is not the most obvious target of a windfall tax, and investors will probably be more concerned with the company's prospects for growth.

Looking ahead, Mr Couch expects the shares to perform in line with the market. "On the upside, there could be gains from further disposals from the non-core property portfolio. And there is also the possibility of a dividend increase. But the company has now seen most of the benefits from rationalisation, and in a low-growth environment the prospects for revenue growth are limited. In addition, management is regarded as fairly conservative."

KAREN ZAGOR

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Halifax Solid Gold (90 Day Notice)	2.75%	2.75%	3.05%	3.05%
Woolwich Premier 90 (90 Day Notice)	N/A	N/A	3.10%	3.10%

Source: Moneyfacts 6th August 1996

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\*\* Gross CAR (Compound Annual Rate). This is the gross rate adjusted to show the annual rate effectively received by a customer if interest applied during the year remained in the account and earned interest each year was compounded. Interest rates correct at time of printing but subject to variation.



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President Yeltsin's health is not seen as an investment issue

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Robert Miller and Bob Cruwys on an emerging market for the bold

## Funds look to Russia, with love



It has to be the ultimate deal for capitalism. This week British Petroleum and McDonald's, the American fast food chain, which already has a presence in the Russian capital, revealed they have formed a joint venture to provide Muscovites with a petrol station and Drive-Thru restaurant on the same site.

In view of the ongoing concerns over the health of President Yeltsin, and the knock-on effect this could have on the confidence of international investors, the deal between two of the world's best known consumer brands is a fillip to the burgeoning investment community in Russia. Further good news came on Wednesday when Regent Pacific, a Hong Kong investment group with offices in London, said that it planned to double its \$400 million Russian portfolio over the next year.

The economic attractions of investing in Russia are many, not least because of the warm welcome foreign companies and fund managers can expect from the Government. The days when overseas companies lived in fear of being nationalised, without compensation, appear to be in the past. But in stock market terms Russia is definitely in the emerging market category.

For UK investors, who can choose between some 21 Russian funds, mostly based offshore, the risks of such an investment should not be underestimated.

That said, President Yeltsin, in the 1996 Guide to Russia, states: "Russia has passed the most complicated stage of a structural and institutional crisis. The national economy is becoming more stable and many industries are now starting to develop dynamically. The possibilities for foreign investments are growing substantially in these conditions.

The attraction of foreign investments is a priority task of the Russian economic policy."

He continues: "We want the people who take investment decisions to know as much as possible about new Russia. Its rich natural resources, qualified personnel, high technologies and a considerable domestic market."

Fine words, and a great encouragement to foreign investors, but on their own not enough. What has given international investors the confidence to follow the likes of Regent are the strict guidelines laid down by that iron-fisted

fiscal taskmaster the IMF (International Monetary Fund). The deal is that the IMF will provide essential funding, provided the Russian Government exercises prudent budgetary controls and keeps the lid on inflation, which currently runs at about 30 to 40 per cent.

Keeping costs under control is clearly going to be a problem for a Government engaged in the escalating war in Chechnya and the battle raging around the capital, Grozny.

Dominic Bokor-Ingram, the fund manager for Regent's four Russian Equity Funds, Tiger Red, White and Blue, for the colours of the Russian flag, as well as Golden Tiger, believes that uncertainty over President Yeltsin's health is not an investment issue. He argues that the outcome of the recent election was not so much a vote for the man, but should be seen as an anti-Communist vote. On investment fundamentals the Regent fund manager fore-

casts "Asian style" annual GDP growth of 7 to 8 per cent for the next five to ten years. With an annual GDP per capita in Russia of \$2,000, Mr Bokor-Ingram believes that there is scope for much greater growth with the added benefit that the consumer sector will also provide investment opportunities.

He adds that the rouble, Russia's currency, is stable and trades in a "corridor" with minimum and maximum limits against the US dollar.

The bulk of Regent's \$400 million invested in Russia is in the top ten or 12 blue chip companies, such as Lukoil and Rostelecom. These are members of the two main Russian indices, the Moscow Times 50 index and the Rosi index of the top 30 companies, compiled by Credit Suisse First Boston. As well as the utility sector, Regent has also invested in companies associated with the vast natural resources of Russia, such as nickel and gold. The service sector, says Mr

in a similar vein such high-risk investments are not meant for locking away, although the time horizon may have to be five years or even longer. If profits offer themselves along the way, then take them and bank them. Mr Bokor-Ingram, for example, took some cash out of the market in May and June on the back of "astronomic gains" ahead of President Yeltsin's election victory and before a 25 per cent drop in the value of leading share values in July.

As he says: "We were working on the principle that it is better to travel than to arrive."

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### FACTS AND FIGURES

THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION consists of 89 members; 21 republics; 11 autonomous entities; six territories; 49 regions; two federal cities (Moscow and St Petersburg). Population: 150 million. Mineral resources estimated at \$30 billion.

Foreign trade in 1995 was \$105.9 billion. Foreign capital investment in the first quarter of 1996 was \$884 million. Foreign debt in June 1995 was \$119.9 billion and was expected to rise to \$130.3 billion by end of 1995.

There are about 70 authorised stock exchanges; 100 commodity exchanges with SE departments; 2,577 commercial banks; 150,000 state enterprises; 700,000 small privatised enterprises; and 15,000 registered joint ventures.

Source: Novost (Russian information agency) and New Markets Month

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## WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

## After a surprise bouquet, an unethical line on travel insurance payout

From Ms D. Jones

Sir, When I was travelling from Maastricht to Brussels with the intention of connecting with the last Eurostar train of the day for Waterloo, the Brussels train was delayed because someone had attempted, or committed, suicide on the line near Liege, resulting in the Eurostar Brussels-Waterloo connection being lost.

A large bouquet for Eurostar, who provided, at no

cost to passengers, hotel room accommodation and breakfast, plus taxis and reservations on the first available train the following morning.

A wooden spoon for my travel insurers, Home and Overseas Insurance Co Ltd, whose claim agents, Claims International Ltd of Croydon, have disclaimed liability for my claim for compensation under the delay section of the policy and additional expendi-

ture incurred (dinner in Brussels) in total £41 on the grounds that the delay was occasioned by suicide.

The general exclusions of the policy include "You are not covered for anything caused directly or indirectly by suicide, deliberately injuring yourself, being under the influence of drink or drugs, alcoholism, drug addiction, solvent abuse" etc, etc. Surely these exclusions imply a direct

connection with the insured, not a suicide of some person wholly unknown somewhere on a railway line, resulting in delayed trains and missed connections?

It seems unethical wriggling and besmirches once again the travel insurance industry.

Yours faithfully,  
DORIS JONES,  
176 Perth Road,  
Ilford,  
Essex.

## Please, Mr Taxman, do wake up

From Miss J. Brocklebank

Sir, Since moving house two years ago, I have been trying to communicate with the local tax office. But Bournemouth rebuffs my advances. For a meagre three and a half days supply teaching in a year, I was taxed as if employed full-time. I live in hope of a refund.

My first inquiry received a three-sentence answer, "Because of the amount of work on hand, I am not able to reply fully... hope to reply within six weeks". Three months later, they asked for a P45 and a prophecy as to whether I would work again. I sent the information. Silence.

My next inquiry elicited the admission that they had lost the copy of their letter to me and without it could not find my papers. Would I forward a

We heard you were having a little Tax problem... It's our custom to send the team over to sort it out, madam.



photocopy of the missing letter? Anything to oblige.

Another silence. I wrote again and... yes, a repeat of the first reply: "Amount of work on hand" etc.

I have just slipped over the border to a neighbouring county. Before I am filed into

## Pay a fair rate of interest

From Mr G. K. Moore

Sir, Interest paid to building society savers has reached a new low, minuscule to many small savers. The multi-various number of tariffs can only mean that should savers choose the wrong one, they will be the losers. Societies should give a lead by ensuring that interest paid should be at least 2 per cent above the rate of inflation.

In the 1930s, at times of zero inflation, 2½ per cent per annum was paid to savers and 4 per cent per annum charged to borrowers. This was about right.

Yours faithfully,  
GORDON K. MOORE,  
51 St Clare's Close,  
Farley Road,  
Littleover Hill,  
Derby.

oblivion, please, how does one get the attention of the Taxman? Claim a connection with royalty?

Yours faithfully,  
J. BROCKLEBANK,  
5 Sharratt Avenue,  
Bishopdown,  
Salisbury, Wiltshire.

mid Selling Schemes Regulations associated with the Fair Trading Act 1973.

Any prospective investors in a so-called "network marketing" or "multi-level marketing" scheme should firstly put aside all notions of becoming fabulously rich, before asking themselves, rationally, whether or not they would pay the money being asked for the goods or services on offer if they were available in the high street.

It is on the basis of this sort of pragmatic judgment that the regulators and courts are studying trading schemes. In the case of Titan 2 the judge observed that it "cannot be declared as having a commercial objective".

Yours faithfully,  
ROBIN CROFT  
(Senior Lecturer in  
Marketing),  
University of Humberstone,  
Cottingham Road, Hull.

## Pragmatism needed to curb pyramid schemes

Sir, One of the worrying aspects of the Titan affair (Robert Miller, August 10) is the impunity with which "clones" of illegal schemes are launched, often within days of the final hearing.

Indeed, I have personal knowledge of one "Son of Titan" which was being planned last week even as Mr Justice Blackburne was giving

his judgment. Under existing law the DTI has the power to close down trading schemes such as this under two counts: that they are illegal or that they do not operate in the public interest.

In the case of Titan 2 it appears the judge was reasonably happy to accept both arguments, although the DTI

shares registered in his own name, where tax implications can outweigh decisions dictated by sound investment criteria.

It was announced in February that Treasury ministers had commissioned the Inland Revenue to review CGT rules. Let us hope that ways will be found to enable the private investor to manage his portfolio with the same freedom from CGT on internal adjustments as that

enjoyed by the managers of collective funds. It is blatantly unfair that a private investor can become liable to CGT on the receipt of a cash bid over which he has no control and must suffer a reduction of income on the reinvestment of his reduced capital.

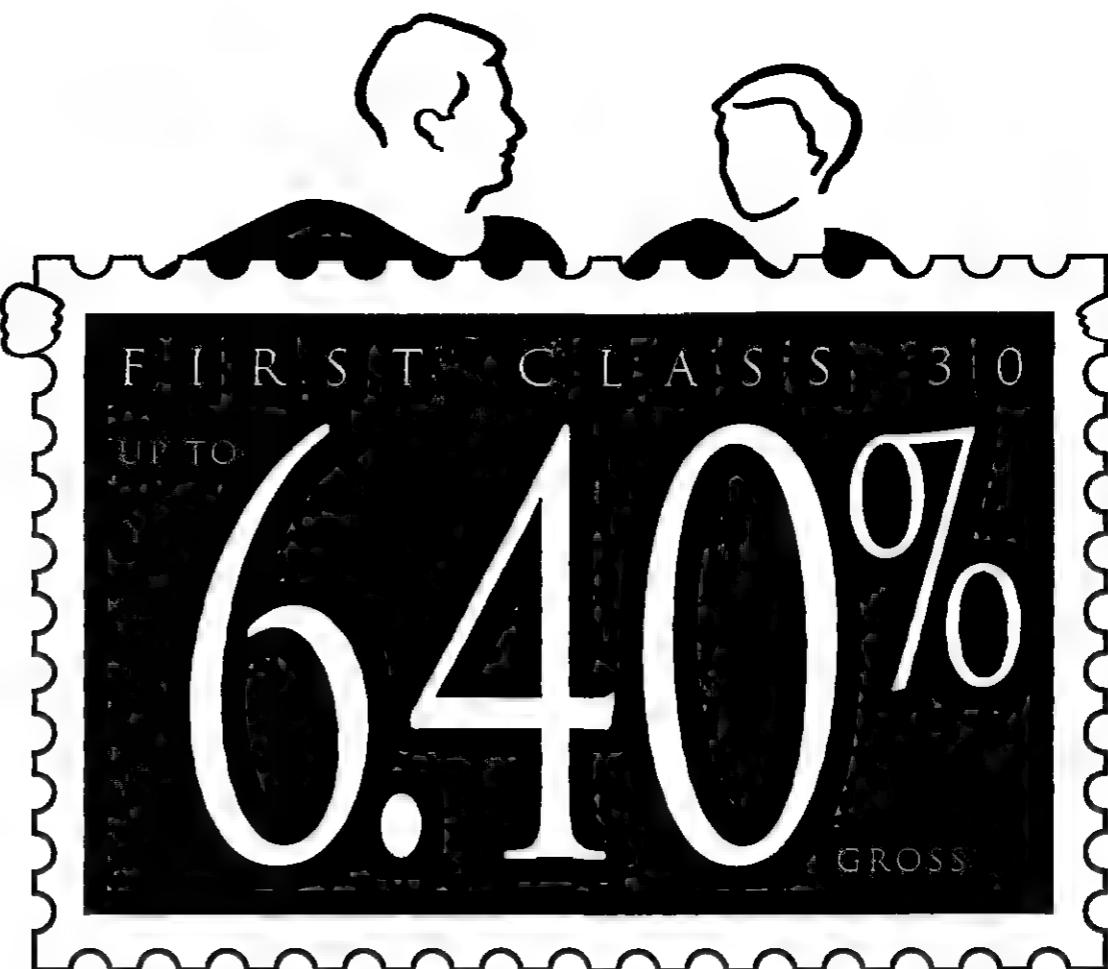
Yours faithfully,  
D. R. BLORE,  
Flat 4,  
Pershore Hall,  
Pershore, Worcestershire.

## Unfair gains tax

From Mr D. R. Blore

Sir, Having conducted a protracted correspondence with the Treasury on the subject of capital gains tax, I am convinced that the Treasury is unwilling to listen to any outside opinion and unable to comprehend the destructive effect of this tax on the ability of the private investor effectively to manage a portfolio of

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 Please send me/us details of the First Class 30 Postal Account.  
 I/We enclose a cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ (min investment £10,000; max £100,000) payable to Birmingham Midshires Building Society (please print your name and address on the reverse of the cheque).  
 Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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TT17/08



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		12 MONTHS	12 MONTHS % CHANGE
International Growth	1	+10.7%	+10.7%
Growing Companies	2	+10.7%	+10.7%
American Growth	3	+10.7%	+10.7%
Far Eastern Growth	4	+10.7%	+10.7%
Japanese Growth	5	+10.7%	+10.7%
European Growth	6	+10.7%	+10.7%
UK Growth	7	+10.7%	+10.7%
Asian, Smaller Markets	8	+10.7%	+10.7%
Latin American Growth	9	+10.7%	+10.7%
Global Fund	10	+10.7%	+10.7%

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TMC 17/08/96



## THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

## When a monthly option no longer counts

It has not taken long for some former National & Provincial Building Society members to discover a downside to becoming Abbey National customers.

Just a week after the umbrella closed on the bee, N&P Tessa holders who have been accustomed to receiving their interest as income every month have discovered this is no longer on.

Abbey National says that it pays interest on Tessa annually and cannot readjust its computer to pay interest monthly. In mitigation, it pleads that its annual rate on Tessa is better than N&P's was. This is true at the moment, although the rate is variable and the trend on savers' rates is down.

In fact, the real advantage to N&P customers of Abbey National's annual interest payment system is in the compounding effect of having income reinvested. A saver who opened a new Tessa this January with £9,000 from a mature Tessa would have earned interest at 6.35 per cent with the Abbey National and 6.3 per cent with the N&P. Over the year, assuming rates

## SOCIETY WATCH



did not change, this would have turned into £80.87 at the Abbey National and £83.27 at the N&P. Of the £22.60 difference, just £5.86 is accounted for by the slight difference in interest rates. The remaining £16.74 is because of the compounding effect of reinvesting income.

But all this will almost certainly be small comfort to N&P customers who have always had the option of having interest paid annually but who have rejected it in favour of monthly income. Such regular income is a valuable extra for many people.

Watch this space for more disappearing customer choices...

SARA McCONNELL

## GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME		
Rates as at August 15, 1996		
Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year		
5,000	AIG Life	4.75
10,000	AIG Life	4.85
20,000	AIG Life	4.90
50,000	AIG Life	5.05
2 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	4.10
3,000	Pinnacle Insur	5.55
20,000	AIG Life	5.60
50,000	AIG Life	5.70
3 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	4.65
3,000	Pinnacle Insur	5.90
20,000	AIG Life	6.03
50,000	AIG Life	6.03
4 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	4.95
3,000	ITI London & Edin	6.20
5 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	5.40
3,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.50
50,000	Abbey Life	6.70

Source: Chamberlain de Brolly 0171-434 2222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

## SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Yorkshire BS 0800 378936	First Cls Accs	Postal	£1,000	4.90	Yly
Alliance & Leic BS 0645 645660	Instn Direct	Postal	£5,000	5.40	Yly
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Instn Postal	Postal	£10,000	5.85	Yly
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Instn Postal	Postal	£25,000	6.05	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Chelmsford Corp BS 0800 132351	POST-tel 20 Day	20Day(p)	£5,000	6.05	Yly
Chelmsford & Glos 0800 717605	Direct 20 Day	20Day(p)	£100	5.50	Yly
Yorkshire BS 0800 378936	Mutual Interest	1 yr bnd	£1,000	6.25	Yly
Cheshire BS 0800 243278	Fxd Rate Bond	31.12.98	£5,000	6.75	F/Mly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Fixed Rate	5 year	£8,575	7.50	F/Mly
NatWest Bank 0800 200400	Fixed Rate	5 year	£5,000	7.45	F/Mly
Birmingham Midshires 0645 720721	5 year	£1,000	7.00	Yly	
Principality BS 0122 344188	5 year	£500	7.00	Yly	

## CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.90%C	11.20%	N/A
People's Bank Connecticut 0500551055	MasterCard/Visa	1.13%	14.40%	N/A
Frizzell Bank 0800 373191	MasterCard/Visa	1.17%	16.10%	£11

## PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

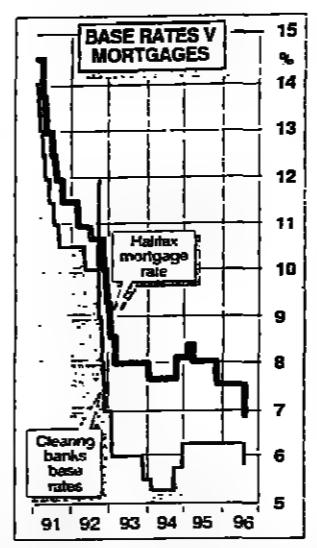
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3 yrs with insurance
Direct Line 0141 248 9966	13.80%	£112.86
Midland 0800 180180	14.90%	£115.82
Northern Rock BS 0345 421421	14.90%	£115.47

N.B. C = no interest free period, E = Available to comprehensive motor insurance policy holders over 22 years, F = Ford Rate (all other rates variable), P = By Post only

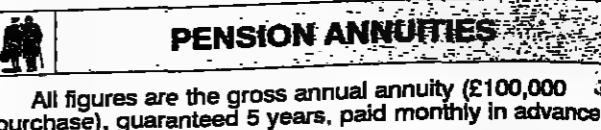
\* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01992 500 677)



NATIONAL SAVINGS					
	Gross rate	At 10% 20%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c*	1.50	1.20	0.90	10-10,000*	0845 6456000
Investment A/c*	3.75	3.80	2.85	20-200,000*	1mth 0845 6456000
Income Bond*	6.25	5.00	3.75	2,000-20,000*	3mth 0845 6456000
First Opt Bond*	6.00	4.80	3,500	100-20,000	8day 0845 6456000
43rd Issue Certif.*	5.35			25-1,000	1mth 0845 6456000
Children's Bond*	3.51				0845 6456000
Gen Rate Bond*	3.51				0845 6456000
Capital Bonds*	6.5	5.32	3,99	100-250,000	8day 0845 6456000
5th Index Linkd*	2.50			100-10,000	8day 0845 6456000
Pensioners Bond S3*	7.00	5.60	4,20	500-50,000	60day 0845 6456000



All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)

Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ..... Level	£10,467	£11,495
General ..... Level	£10,359	£11,382
Sun Ld of Can. .... Level	£10,255	£12,283
Norwich Un. .... Level	£10,261	£12,553
Stewart* .... Level	£10,173	£11,215

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ..... Level	£9,323	£9,895	£10,708
Norwich Un. .... Level	£9,301	£9,847	£10,837
General ..... Level	£9,234	£9,844	£10,889
Sun Ld of Can. .... Level	£9,158	£9,720	£10,526

\* Maximum purchase £100,000. Higher rates for smokers.

Source: Annual Pensions (01733 560 300)

Compiled by: Lizzane Rose

## LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes





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## Shares set records

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996	Low Company	Price	Yld	%	PE	1996	Low Company	Price	Yld	%	PE	1996	Low Company	Price	Yld	%	PE
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>																	
500 410 Allied Breweries	449	6	6.6	17.0		506 418 Boddam Sp	345	2	3.2	17.0		502 419 Brewerton Ltd	110	1	2.7	16.2	
501 500 Bova Control	101	2	6.2	21.8		507 420 Brewin	26	1	1.2	16.2		503 421 Brewin Corp	110	1	2.7	16.2	
502 501 Bova Control	101	2	6.2	21.8		508 422 Brewin Corp	105	1	2.6	16.2		504 422 Brewin Corp	105	1	2.6	16.2	
503 502 Bova Control	101	2	6.2	21.8		509 423 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6		505 423 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6	
504 503 Bova Control	101	2	6.2	21.8		510 424 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6		506 424 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6	
505 504 Bova Control	101	2	6.2	21.8		511 425 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6		507 425 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6	
506 505 Bova Control	101	2	6.2	21.8		512 426 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6		508 426 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6	
507 506 Bova Control	101	2	6.2	21.8		513 427 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6		509 427 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6	
508 507 Bova Control	101	2	6.2	21.8		514 428 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6		510 428 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6	
509 508 Bova Control	101	2	6.2	21.8		515 429 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6		511 429 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6	
510 509 Bova Control	101	2	6.2	21.8		516 430 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6		512 430 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6	
511 510 Bova Control	101	2	6.2	21.8		513 431 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6		514 431 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6	
512 511 Bova Control	101	2	6.2	21.8		515 432 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6		516 432 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6	
513 512 Bova Control	101	2	6.2	21.8		517 433 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6		518 433 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6	
514 513 Bova Control	101	2	6.2	21.8		519 434 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6		520 434 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6	
515 514 Bova Control	101	2	6.2	21.8		521 435 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6		522 435 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6	
516 515 Bova Control	101	2	6.2	21.8		523 436 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6		524 436 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6	
517 516 Bova Control	101	2	6.2	21.8		525 437 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6		526 437 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6	
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541 540 Bova Control	101	2	6.2	21.8		573 462 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6		574 463 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6	
542 541 Bova Control	101	2	6.2	21.8		575 464 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6		576 465 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6	
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544 543 Bova Control	101	2	6.2	21.8		579 468 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6		580 469 Brewin Corp	101	1	2.9	19.6	
545 544 Bova Control	1																

RUGBY UNION: INJURED HOOKER FROM DUNBLANE HAS TO MISS MEMORIAL GAME

# McKenzie sees hope beyond the grief

By MARK SOUTER

WHENEVER anyone now asks Kevin McKenzie where he comes from, he answers Stirling rather than Dunblane. It is not out of disrespect for those who died, or those who still grieve at the savagery of Thomas Hamilton. For him, it is the easiest way to try to blot out the appalling memories of March.

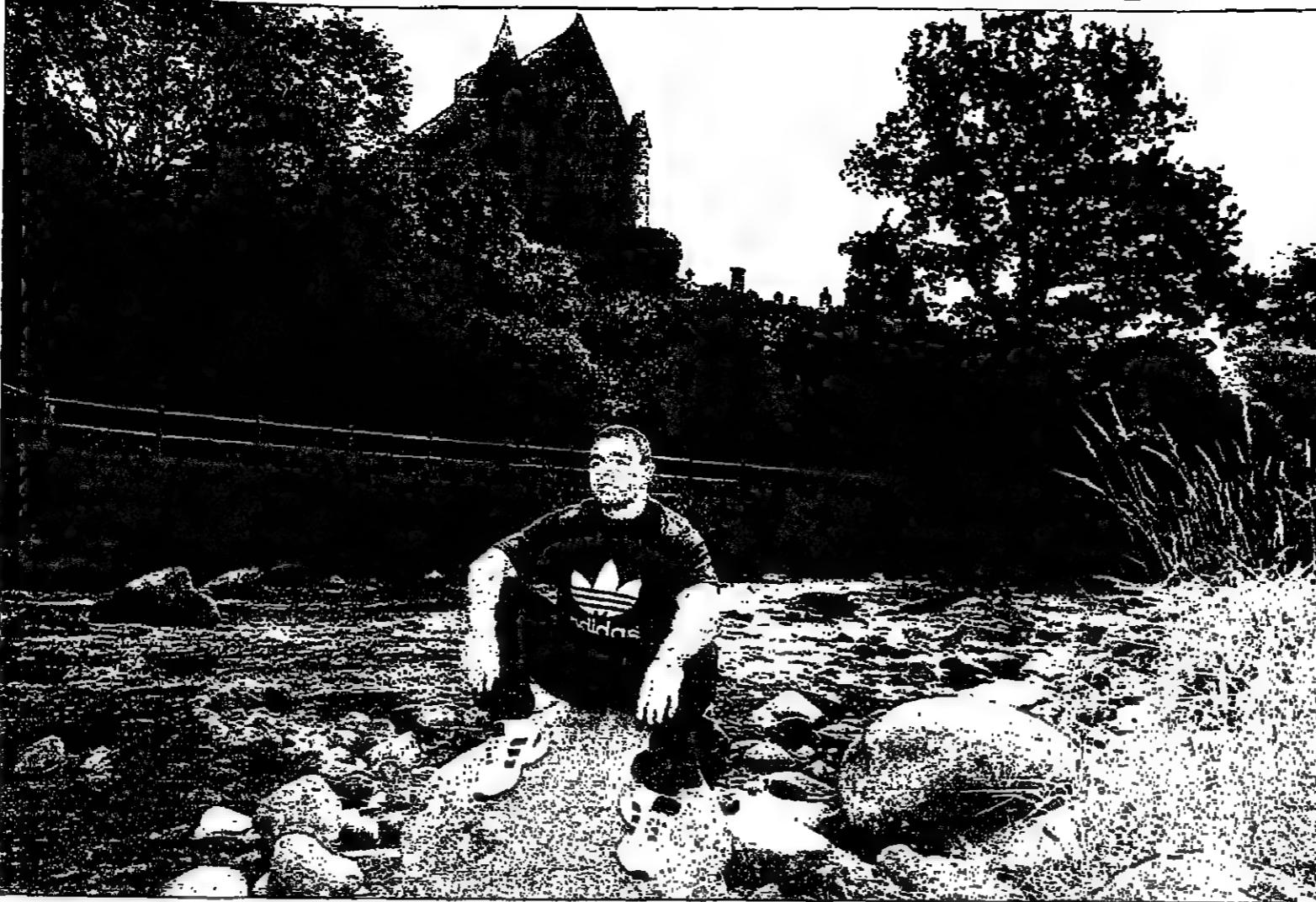
McKenzie, the diminutive Scotland first-choice hooker, who misses the Dunblane International against the Barbarians at Murrayfield this afternoon through injury, was born and raised in the small Scottish town, went to Dunblane Primary School as a boy and was a member of Hamilton's youth club. The emotions that evokes are raw.

"When you are 13 or 14 the lure of going along to the shooting range is exciting and that's what we used to do. But my mum and dad weren't too happy. Talk got around among other parents and so they took me out of the club. Hamilton looked quite strange and there were plenty of rumours going about," he said.

"When news of the shootings came on the television, I was sure it was going to say it had happened in England or America. When I saw pictures of my old school, the buildings, the gymnasium, I was stunned. You are used to watching awful things on the news but never believe it could happen in a place as beautiful as Dunblane."

McKenzie remembers watching in disbelief as the tragedy unfolded. "When you saw the pictures of families running to the school it was eerie. I know so many of them," he said. "My parents live in George Street and many of the children who died came from a half-mile radius. The parents were people I had been to school with."

So what of the future? "The town has got a tag now. You cannot change that or the past, but you can make the future better," McKenzie said. "The spirit is there, it's a great place to live and at the end of the day it's not Dunblane's fault. It could have happened anywhere. If you start thinking about the 16 wee bodies and the scenes of carnage, it cracks you up. The families have been brilliant and got on with their lives. It must be harder for them, so if they can do it



McKenzie, the Scotland first-choice hooker, sits by the river in Dunblane, the small town where he grew up. Photograph: George Wilkie

then everyone else can as well."

McKenzie attended one of the funerals of Hamilton's victims, and said: "It was one of the worst experiences of my life. I went to read some of the messages on the flowers and it was just so sad. When you saw the families of those who had lost children, I couldn't find words to express how I felt."

Coming from Dunblane has resulted in some unwanted sympathy for McKenzie. "When I first got into the Scottish set-up and people asked me where I was from and I told them Dunblane, they hadn't a clue. Now they say, 'Oh, I'm really sorry.' But it's not as if I lost anyone."

Sport's capacity and willingness to assist in time of trouble has been evident in the healing process. McKenzie was one of several international players who, out of sight of the

cameras, reached out to help. They went back to the school to take out the children from the Primary Seven class. "Many of those children had seen a lot of what had gone on and he [Hamilton] had shot through their huts. The day before they were due to go back to school we took them to Perth to help them take their minds off things," he said.

The match today will have an extra poignancy for McKenzie, who will watch from the stands. "I would love to be involved. This will be the right way to round it all off — proceeds from today go to the fund from today go to the fund."

The 28-year-old, who expects his first child at Christmas, appealed to the Scottish public to support the match. "Murrayfield looks terrible when there's only half a crowd. If we can fill it for a five nations' game, we can surely fill it for this."

## Irish recruits join Saracens

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IF THE dust from the bulldozers clearing one side of the ground has settled in time, Saracens will be ready to make their debut at Enfield Football Club in a fortnight with all the razzamatazz to which rugby union must become accustomed. The parade, scheduled for Piccadilly on September 1, to relaunch the Trocadero, will be rehearsed the day before when Leicester open a new league season for the north London club.

Saracens paraded yesterday at Enfield — where they will play all their first XV games — the new echelon of international talent that the wealth of Nigel Wray, chairman of Trocadero plc, has

allowed them to buy. But they have added two further internationals, Richard Wallace and Paddy Johns, to the quartet whose capture was already known.

Wallace, the Ireland wing, will join his brother, Paul, at Saracens alongside Michael Lyngah (Australia), Philippe Sella (France) and Kieran Bracken (England). More controversially, Saracens have lured the Ireland lock, Johns, from Bedford.

Wray is metaphorically rubbing his hands with glee that their nearest first-division rivals, Wasps, have chosen to play their major games at Loftus Road rather than Sudbury. "Our catchment area has now become the whole of north London," he said. Public interest is reflected, too, in the 3,000 or so who have already booked for the opening match.

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## GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

### FOOTBALL

League One: 10 clubs stated. Four players suspended in brackets. Details at [www.football.com](http://www.football.com)

#### FA Carling Premiership

(1) Arsenal v West Ham

(2) Blackburn v Tottenham

(3) Coventry v Nottingham Forest

(4) Derby v Leeds

(5) Everton v Newcastle

(6) Ipswich v Nottingham Forest

(7) Sheffield Wednesday v Aston Villa

(8) Sunderland v Leicester

(9) " Wimbleton v Manchester Utd

Nasional League: First division

(10) Bradford v Portsmouth

(11) Grimsby v Shrewsbury Town

(12) Hartlepool v Chesterfield

(13) Notts County v Swindon

(14) Oldham v Stoke

(15) Port Vale v Bolton

(16) QPR v Oxford Utd

(17) Reading v Sheffield Utd

(18) Rotherham v Tranmere

(19) West Bromwich v Barnsley

Second division

(20) Bradford v Chesterfield

(21) Bournemouth v Watford

(22) Bristol Rovers v Peterborough

(23) Burton v Coventry

(24) Cambridge v Stockport

(25) Gillingham v Bristol City

(26) Luton v Bury

(27) Millwall v Wrexham

(28) Notts County v Preston

(29) Walsall v Rotherham

Third division

(30) Bognor Regis v Chester

(31) Cambridge Utd v Barnet

(32) Colchester Utd v Hartlepool

(33) Doncaster v Carlisle

(34) Fleetwood v Macclesfield

(35) Hull v Darlington

(36) Leyton Orient v Scunthorpe

(37) Mansfield v Exeter

(38) Scarborough v Cardiff

(39) Shrewsbury v Lincoln

(40) Wigan v Northampton

Vauxhall Conference

(41) Altrincham v Rushden & Diamonds

(42) Hayes v Southport

(43) Kettering v Gateshead

(44) Macclesfield v Woking

(45) Northwich v Bath

(46) Slough v Stevenage

(47) Stockport v Farnborough

(48) Welling v Bromsgrove

Bell's Scottish League: Premier division

(49) Celtic v Ralli

(50) Dundee Utd v Hibernian

(51) Dunfermline v Rangers

(52) Hearts v Kilmarnock (2.0)

(53) Motherwell v Aberdeen

First division

(54) East Fife v St Mirren

(55) Greenock Morton v Clydebank

(56) Partick Thistle v Dundee

(57) St Johnstone v Farside

(58) Stirling v Archie

Second division

(59) Ayr v Hamilton

(60) Brechin v Bonnyrigg

(61) Cumnock v St Mirren

(62) Dundee v Stenhousemuir

(63) Dunfermline v Queen of the South

(64) Stenhousemuir v Brechin

Third division

(65) Alloa v Forfar

(66) Arbroath v Ross County

(67) Caledonian Thistle v Cowdenbeath

(68) Montrose v Alloa

(69) Queen's Park v East Stirlingshire

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division

(70) Ayr v Glencorse Calc.

(71) Chester, Buxton v Cheadle C.ay

(72) Chorlton, Salford v Stretford

(73) Oldham v Wigan

(74) Oldham v Wigan

(75) Oldham v Wigan

(76) Oldham v Wigan

(77) Oldham v Wigan

(78) Oldham v Wigan

(79) Oldham v Wigan

(80) Oldham v Wigan

(81) Oldham v Wigan

(82) Oldham v Wigan

(83) Oldham v Wigan

(84) Oldham v Wigan

(85) Oldham v Wigan

(86) Oldham v Wigan

(87) Oldham v Wigan

(88) Oldham v Wigan

(89) Oldham v Wigan

(90) Oldham v Wigan

(91) Oldham v Wigan

(92) Oldham v Wigan

(93) Oldham v Wigan

(94) Oldham v Wigan





CRICKET: SELECTORS SPLIT AS THEY SEARCH FOR SOLUTION TO FAMILIAR CONUNDRUM BEFORE OVAL TEST

# England balancing act puts Russell on tightrope

By ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

WHENEVER a match needs winning in square a series, there is a danger of confusion and compromise, of mistaking a blind alley for a short cut. England's selectors have been this way often enough but it will not make the decisions any less sensitive this evening, when the balance of the side for the final Test against Pakistan is once more certain to divide the panel.

The familiar paradox is that although England have no problem with their wicketkeeper, on the contrary possessing one of the most accomplished in the world, it is on this position that the debate will focus. And it is difficult to know

whether more sympathy is due to Jack Russell, who could lose the job, or Alec Stewart, who may have to take it up again with stated reluctance.

This matter headed the agenda when the selectors last gathered, prior to the drawn Headingley Test. Raymond Illingworth, the chairman, was in favour of Stewart (which did not sit comfortably with his personal backing for Russell in the less appropriate environment of the World Cup) but the other selectors demurred, some strongly, and Russell was retained.

Through no fault of Russell, nor for that matter of Stewart, nothing has been resolved. If the seam bowlers had done their jobs better on the first day in Leeds, Stewart's

subsequent century would have been in a winning cause and the series would now be level. Instead, England still trail 1-0 and Russell is once more being touted as the potential fall guy.

It would be easier to denounce such talk if Russell's immaculate standards had not dropped discernibly in the past few games but the principle remains wrong, not least because it would encumber Stewart with duties he does not want, just when he has recaptured his most assertive batting form.

Stewart made his runs at Headingley going in first and must remain there if he kept wicket, this may not be practicable. Yet to tamper with a batting order that functioned so effectively, with three

partnerships between 89 and 108, would be little short of criminal.

Immediately after that game, both Stewart and Michael Atherton, the captain, repeated their view that Russell must continue in the job. Atherton, presumably, will maintain that stance this evening, so the matter will rest on whether the other three selectors, Graham Gooch, David Graveney and David Lloyd, have wavered.

The one certainty is that nothing else, within the conundrum of including enough bowlers without weakening the batting, can be finalised until this central decision is made. If Russell is retained, there is then a likelihood that a batsmen will be sacrificed and, inevitably, it will be either Crawley or Knight.

Ian Salisbury, the leg spinner, must play on a pitch likely to offer him bounce, if not a lavish turn. He obviously enjoys bowling on the ground as he is considering a move

both of whom played so positively in Leeds. This would be harsh, though both will be reassured that their tour places are safe.

England have won at the Oval in recent years with exclusively seam bowling but they also won memorably against West Indies through the spin of Philip Tufnell. Last year's Test was an anti-climactic draw on a lifeless pitch. It is hard to imagine more conflicting evidence but, whereas there was logic to the policy of four fast bowlers at Headingley, it would be an error to repeat it here.

Ian Salisbury, the leg spinner, must play on a pitch likely to offer him bounce, if not a lavish turn. He obviously enjoys bowling on the ground as he is considering a move

to Surrey and he would give England an important new dimension in a game that will take some making.

Chris Lewis has regressed to some old, bad habits and can no longer keep out Darren Gough, whose ability to bowl late inswinging at a combative pace is unequalled by any Englishman.

Lewis was much the worst of the England bowlers at Headingley and his wayward performance in the NatWest Trophy semi-final the following day hardly restored confidence. Gough is a vibrant cricketer whose body language itself does something to lift a team in a way of which Lewis has never been capable.

My XIII would be: Atherton, Stewart, Hussain, Thorpe, Crawley, Knight, Irani, Russell, Cork, Gough, Caddick, Mullally and Salisbury.

# Walsh leaves indelible mark to rout Yorkshire

By JACK BAILEY

**Bristol (second day of four): Gloucestershire (23 pts) beat Yorkshire (4) by ten wickets**

IT IS a topsy-turvy world and cricket is the most unpredictable of games, but watching Yorkshire — until now, a team with the county championship in their sights — taking a thorough beating at the hands of lowly Gloucestershire was an eye-opener for even the most seasoned onlooker.

Yesterday's play was hardly into its stride before Yorkshire relinquished what tenuous chance they had of holding on to this match. They allowed the last four Gloucestershire wickets to add 117 runs to their overnight 211 for six, thus extending their lead to 163. They even suffered a last-wicket stand of 54 at the hands

An eighth-wicket stand of 115 by the New Zealand wicketkeeper, Gareth Hopkins, and Daniel Vettori frustrated England Under-19's in the second youth international after they had fought back bravely to have the touring team struggling at 162 for seven. Hopkins, whose 79 included 12 fours, and Vettori, with 41, ensured that New Zealand gleaned a first-innings lead of 153. By the close at New Road, Worcester, England had declined, weakly, to 110 for four, with two days remaining.

of Jack Russell and Courtney Walsh.

Yorkshire grit was available only in small handfuls as Walsh printed his indelible seal upon the game. He removed both Maxon and Byas in his second over, the prelude to a Yorkshire collapse which saw the first five wickets tumble for 58. Michael Vaughan stood his ground and played some pleasant strokes; Richard Blakey batted with all the character he had shown in the first innings; Peter Hartley produced a flourish of 38 from 24 balls, but more, much more was needed.

Gloucestershire required only 17 to win and they reached their target with half-an-hour and two days to spare. Two welcome days, probably, for Walsh, who left



Although batting at No 10, Cowan was not spared from a bouncer by Klusener

## Impressive thrust by Kirtley

By SIMON WILDE

**CHESTER-LE-STREET (second day of four): South Africa A, with four second-innings wickets in hand, are 114 runs ahead of TCCB XI**

PERHAPS this is how full England teams should do it: stump (McGrath) must wonder where his next runs are coming from and then Walsh returned to bring one back at Kettleborough, on the back foot, his pads well in front. Vaughan played early at Alleyne to be caught at extra cover, having made 35 off Yorkshire's 58 for five, and, although both Blakey and Hartley responded to the challenge, Walsh had by then handed over the wrapping-up of operations to Smith and Davis, which made life less onerous for the batsman.

Walsh's match figures of nine for 57 took his season's haul past the 60-wicket mark. One can only guess at what he said to Davis after Hartley had struck the slow-left-arm bowler for successive sixes. But his touch was sure. Next ball Hartley was caught at deep mid-wicket. It was Walsh's match all right.

Smith played his part by removing poor McGrath's of stump (McGrath) must wonder where his next runs are coming from and then Walsh returned to bring one back at Kettleborough, on the back foot, his pads well in front. Vaughan played early at Alleyne to be caught at extra cover, having made 35 off Yorkshire's 58 for five, and, although both Blakey and Hartley responded to the challenge, Walsh had by then handed over the wrapping-up of operations to Smith and Davis, which made life less onerous for the batsman.

Should the TCCB XI pull off a notable victory today, as they ought to, they will look back gratefully on the deeds of three unlikely heroes yesterday. Jimmy Daley and Alastair Brown put behind them weeks of sorry form to share an entertaining stand of 130 and help to secure a lead of 58; and James Kirtley again bowled in a manner which

mocked his inexperience as the South Africans lost four wickets clearing the arrears.

Kirtley snuffed the first three wickets in his first two overs to leave the innings in tatters at eight for three. Moving the ball around awkwardly, he produced fine deliveries to bowl Gibbs off his pads and have two inns in the match occupied four balls — caught at the wicket off a superb nutspinner.

Earlier, Brown, who smote 79 from 81 balls, and Daley, who made a more sedate 76, both produced their highest first-class scores of the season.

Brown, at least, has made runs in limited-over games, including for England; Daley has struggled all along and they are threatening to make monkeys out of young men whose country is reputedly taking cricket into new areas of sporting science.

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the match occupied four balls —

caught at the wicket off a superb

nutspinner.

In an hour after lunch he

scored 55 and struck his one

six and the majority of his 14

fours. He might have hit

many more had his attempt to

drive Pringle to the long-on

boundary for a six been a

success. His variation was all

too much for Leicestershire who

never really seemed focused

on a game which they proba-

bly saw as an encumbrance on

the championship, run-in.

They were without Whitaker,

Simmons and Mullally and

Wells, the acting captain, who

has made three double-centu-

ries this season, batted at

No 8.

By then the match was as

good as lost. Pakistan batted

on for 55 minutes in the

morning, Shahid Afridi fall-

ing 11 runs short of a century,

before declaring. Mohammad

Akram, another young bowler

who now seems sure to play at

the Oval, confirmed the im-

pression he had made in the

first innings by having

Sutcliffe caught at slip in a

second over.

He went on to have Parsons,

battling at No 4 for some

obscure reason, leg before to

finish with match figures of

nine for 99.

Mushtaq Ahmed did have

one frenzied appeal upheld

when he had Maddy caught

at slip, but the rest belonged

to Saeed Anwar, who was

caught at slip in the first

over. He had to bat at 10,

but he had to bat at 10,

&lt;p



## THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

## ARSENAL

Arsenal could have signed Vialli but didn't. They could have had Brazil's elegant Juninho last season, but didn't. They could have signed for Ravanelli, but wouldn't. Now, sacking a manager at the start of a new season, they bought in haste. Garde is a mystery, Vieira undoubtedly a talent. We await Arsene Wenger. David Dein, Arsenal's vice-president, is now an Aunty Saffy. Seventy years ago, Sir Henry Norris, who moved Arsenal to Highbury, decreed: no new players under 5ft 7in or 10st. Still, he might have signed Vialli. BG

## ASTON VILLA

Just when Villa supporters thought Brian Little was resting on his laurels, having made barely a move in the summer market, up popped Sasa Cacic, the £4 million Serb midfield player, from Bolton Wanderers. Little had been trailing Cacic, one of Bolton's few successes as they plunged out of the Premiership last season, for six months. Once Cacic's work permit has been renewed, he will wear the claret-and-blue alongside Savo Milosevic, his Yugoslavia team-mate, for the first time. RK

## DERBY COUNTY

Twice during the summer Ajloša Asanović stood head and shoulders above his fellow midfield players. It was a surprise that he outshone Boban and Prosinčić in Croatia's European championship campaign; that he did so again in Derby's pre-season work, less so. Igor Stimac, his compatriot, told Jim Smith that Derby could not afford to be without the man's vision and passing range. That is the biggest single reason for optimism among supporters that the club will tread water, not drown, this season.

## EVERTON

Two things go on puzzling Joe Royle as Everton go into the new season: why his side's odds as Premiership winners are so long, and why he is being connected with every striker in Europe. "We came sixth last season without Kanchelskis and Ferguson for half of it," he said. "This season we're starting with a full squad." He is equally ebullient about scoring goals. "People say we'll be short of goals, but I can see four players who will score 10 to 12 goals plus, and with others chipping in, we will get goals." PB

## MANCHESTER UNITED

Alex Ferguson has left little doubt that repeating Sir Matt Busby's feat of winning the European Cup is his obsession this season, and there is growing evidence that the players share his target. "In England the Premiership is so important," Eric Cantona, the new club captain, told United magazine. "I think in the past it has been the priority, but this season we want to win the European Cup and the Premiership. Everybody at United wants to win the European Cup. We want to be famous all round the world, not only in our country." PB

## SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

If only Wednesday's football was as articulate as their manager's media analysis. While David Pleat is consistency personified behind a microphone, Wednesday's players offer a new definition of erratic. Aston Villa at Hillsborough should offer a useful yardstick to this season's mood and potential. All eyes will be on Andy Booth, the young former Huddersfield forward that many Premiership rivals peeped at, before getting cold feet and looking abroad. Scott Oakes has also rejoined his former Luton mentor. LT

## SUNDERLAND

Strains of last spring's hit record, Simply Red and White's 'Cheer up Peter Reid', are sure to ring around Roker Park but Sunderland's manager trusts he will be leading post-match celebrations in the club's newly opened Reidy's Bar. Niall Quinn will make his debut leading the attacking line against Leicester following Thursday's club record £1.3 million move from Manchester City. Tony Cottee keeps goal after signing up from Manchester United reserves while Alex Rae has departed Millwall to assume Roker's playmaker mantle. LT

## MIDDLESBROUGH

Emerson's long crinkly wet-look, Ravanelli's square grey convic crop and Juninho's schoolboy cut and just three of the contrasting hairstyles on show in Teesside's most cosmopolitan quarter. Bryan Robson has assembled a polyglot side including three Brazilians, an Italian and a Norwegian. While Ravanelli, the £7 million Italian, starts at centre forward, Juninho may not yet be sufficiently recovered from Brazil's exertions in Atlanta to play, and despite earning £20,000 a week, Branco is not a first choice anyway. LT

## FORM GUIDE

Last season's position	Last five league games
5th	LDDWW
Aston Villa	WLDDL
Blackburn	7th
Chelsea	WWDDW
Coventry	11th
Derby	16th
Everton	2nd first div
Leeds	8th
Leicester	13th
Liverpool	5th first div
Manchester Utd	3rd
Middlesbrough	1st
Newcastle	12th
Nottingham Forest	2nd
Sheffield Wed	8th
Southampton	15th
Sunderland	17th
Tottenham	1st first div
West Ham	8th
Wimbledon	10th
	14th

## WEST HAM UNITED

As he dived around the training ground this week, like a young star out to impress, it was hard to believe that here was a player who made his league debut in the season that England won the World Cup. But then Peter Shilton, 47 next month and the winner of 125 England caps, is no ordinary player. Shilton badly wants to become the first player to make 1,000 league appearances in British football and should Lukasz Miklosko's injured finger keep him out against Arsenal at Highbury today, Shilton could take his tally to 997. KP

Reports: Brian Glanville, Peter Bell, Russell Kempson, Louise Taylor, Nick Szczepanik, Keith Pike

## WIMBLEDON

"Frightening," Vinnie Jones said of the prospect of opening fixtures against Manchester United (home) and Newcastle United (away). "We lost 6-1 at Newcastle last year. But we're all in the same league, so there shouldn't be that much difference. And funny things happen at the beginning of a season." Joe Kinnear, the manager, is at least looking forward to a rare Selhurst sell-out today, even if more than 20,000 will be behind the visitors. What price Kinnear's men? "They're 2-1 to win the league, we're 250-1," he said. NS

## COVENTRY CITY v NOTTINGHAM FOREST

COVENTRY CITY (from) S Ogrizovic, R Shaw, J Daech, D Burrows, P Teller, E Jess, G McAllister, J Williams, J Salako, D Dubin, N Whelan, M O'Neill, K Richardson, B Bowmire, A Ducros, M Hall, Isakas, J Flan

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from) S Crossley, A Fethers, D Lytle, A-Haaland, C Cooper, N Jankin, S Chetto, S Pearce, S Stone, D Phillips, C Bart-Williams, S Gemmill, C Allen, I Woan, K Campbell, D Saunders, P McGregor, J Lee

## ARSENAL v WEST HAM UNITED

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 0-0, 1-0, 2-1, —, —, 0-1, —, 0-2, 0-1, 1-0.

## HOW THEY LINE UP

ARSENAL (from) D Seaman, I. Dixon, A. Linghan, M. Keown, S. Bould, N. Winterburn, R. Parlour, D. Platt, P. Merson, D. Bergkamp, I. Wright, M. Rose, S. Morrow, J. Hartson, G. Helder, D. Hitter, P. Dickov, J. Lukic.

WEST HAM (from) L. Miklosko, T. Brecker, J. Dicks, S. Blilic, M. Reiper, K. Rowland, M. Hughes, F. Lampard, J. Dow, D. Williamson, S. Jones, A. Whitbread, P. Fiture, R. Slater, M. Bowen, S. Lazarides, R. Ferdinand, S. Maitone.

## HOW THEY LINE UP

EVERTON (from) N. Southall, P. Gerard, E. Barrett, A. Hinchliffe, D. Unsworth, D. Watson, C. Short, A. Kanchelskis, J. Ebbett, A. Grant, J. Parkinson, D. Ferguson, G. Speed, G. Sturt, M. Branch, P. Ridout, A. Limpar.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (from) P. Smicer, W. Barton, J. Beresford, D. Batty, D. Peacock, S. Howey, R. Lee, P. Beardsey, A. Shearer, L. Ferdinand, R. Scott, D. Gindol, S. Hislop, K. Gillespie, S. Watson, L. Clark, P. Albert, P. Kison

## HOW THEY LINE UP

WIMBLEDON (from) N. Sullivan, K. Cunningham, A. Kimble, V. Jones, D. Blackwell, B. Thacker, R. Leontiades, R. Earle, D. Holdsworth, M. Gray, C. Perry, J. Goodman, A. Reeves, A. Thom, B. McAllister, N. Ardley, S. Castledine, M. Harford, D. Jupp, A. Clarke

MANCHESTER UNITED (from) P. Schmeichel, D. Inver, D. May, G. Parker, P. Neville, D. Beckham, R. Keane, N. Butt, R. Giggs, E. Cantona, P. Scholes, K. Poborsky, J. Cruyff, G. Neville, R. Johnson, R. van der Gout.

## HOW THEY LINE UP

WIMBLEDON v MANCHESTER UNITED

## TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-0, 2-1, 1-1, 2-2, 1-3, 1-2, 1-2, 1-0, 0-1, 2-4.

## HOW THEY LINE UP

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WIMBLEDON v MANCHESTER UNITED

## TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-0, 2-1, 1-1, 2-2, 1-3, 1-2, 1-2, 1-0, 0-1, 2-4.

## HOW THEY LINE UP

WIMBLEDON (from) D. Beasant, J. Dodd, A. Nelson, F. Benali, S. Charlton, R. Dryden, J. Megilton, B. Venison, N. Maddison, M. Le Tissier, N. Shropshire, G. Wilson, N. Heaney, D. Hughes, M. Oakley, P. Tindale, N. Moss, G. Potter

MANCHESTER UNITED (from) P. Schmeichel, D. Inver, D. May, G. Parker, P. Neville, D. Beckham, R. Keane, N. Butt, R. Giggs, E. Cantona, P. Scholes, K. Poborsky, J. Cruyff, G. Neville, R. Johnson, R. van der Gout.

## BLACKBURN ROVERS v TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, —, 0-2, 1-0, 2-0, 2-1.

## HOW THEY LINE UP

BLACKBURN ROVERS (from) T. Flowers, H. Berg, J. Kenne, T. Sherwood, C. Hendry, C. Coleman, G. Done, G. Fenton, K. Gallacher, L. Bohinen, P. Pearce, G. Ricotti, S. Ripley, P. Warhurst, G. Swann, N. Marker, D. Duff, M. Holmes, G. Croft, S. Gudmundsson

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from) I. Walker, S. Campbell, G. Mabbutt, C. Calderwood, C. Wilson, D. Howells, D. Anderson, R. Fox, C. Armstrong, E. Sherrington, A. Sinton, R. Rosenthal, S. Carr, J. Dazzell, S. Nethercot, J. Edinburgh, G. McMahon, E. Baardson

## HOW THEY LINE UP

MIDDLESBROUGH (from) A. Miller, G. Walsh, N. Cox, G. Fleming, S. Vickers, N. Pearson, D. Whyte, N. Bamby, Emerson, F. Ravanelli, J. Juninho, A. Moore, R. Mustoe, Branco.

LIVERPOOL (from) D. James, D. Matteo, S. Björnebye, J. McAtee, M. Wright, D. Ruddock, P. Babu, J. Barnes, S. McManaman, M. Thomas, S. Collymore, R. Fowler, M. Carragher, D. Thompson, P. Chamock, A. Warner, I. Jones

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CHELSEA (from) D. Kharine, D. Pelesey, F. Labroue, S. Clarke, J. Spencer, A. Myers, G. Vialli, M. Hughes, D. Wise, M. Duberry, D. Lee, K. Hitchcock, C. Burley, R. Di Matteo, S. Minto, E. Johnson, G. Peacock, J. Morris

## HOW THEY LINE UP

SOUTHAMPTON (from) D. Beasant, J. Dodd, A. Nelson, F. Benali, S. Charlton, R. Dryden, J. Megilton, B. Venison, N. Maddison, M. Le Tissier, N. Shropshire, G. Wilson, N. Heaney, D. Hughes, M. Oakley, P. Tindale, N. Moss, G. Potter

LEEDS UNITED (from) D. James, D. Matteo, S. Björnebye, J. McAtee, M. Wright, D. Ruddock, P. Babu, J. Barnes, S. McManaman, M. Thomas, S. Collymore, R. Fowler, M. Carragher, D. Thompson, P. Chamock, A. Warner, I. Jones

## HOW THEY LINE UP

COVENTRY CITY (from) S. Ogrizovic, R. Shaw, J. Daech, D. Burrows, P. Teller, E. Jess, G. McAllister, J. Williams, J. Salako, D. Dubin, N. Whelan, M. O'Neill, K. Richardson, B. Bowmire, A. Ducros, M. Hall, Isakas, J. Flan

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from) S. Crossley, A. Fethers, D. Lytle, A-Haaland, C. Cooper, N. Jankin, S. Chetto, S. Pearce, S. Stone, D. Phillips, C. Bart-Williams, S. Gemmill, C. Allen, I. Woan, K. Campbell, D. Saunders, P. McGregor, J. Lee

## HOW THEY LINE UP

LEEDS UNITED (from) D. James, D. Matteo, S. Björnebye, J. McAtee, M. Wright, D. Ruddock, P. Babu, J. Barnes, S. McManaman, M. Thomas, S. Collymore, R. Fowler, M. Carragher, D. Thompson, P. Chamock, A. Warner, I. Jones

## HOW THEY LINE UP

DERBY COUNTY (from) R. Hould, M. Taylor, J. Lausen, D. Yates, I. Stilicic, G. Howett, P. Parker, C. Powell, D. Power, R. van der Laan, C. Dally, A. Aganovic, D. Sturridge, M. Gabbiadini, R. Willems, P. Simpson, L. Carsley, S. Flynn

LEEDS UNITED (from) N. Martin, M. Beeney, G. Kelly, R. Jobson, L. Radcliffe, C. Palmer, D. Wetherall, L. Sharpe, R. Wallace, M. Ford, L. Bowyer, I. Ruch, B. Deane, A. Gray, P. Beesley, A. Couzens, M. Tinkler.

## HOW THEY LINE UP

SUNDERLAND (from) K. Poole, C. Keller, S. Grayson, J. Walls, S. Walsh, S. Prior, M. Whittle, S. Taylor, N. Lennon, M. Izquierdo, S. Claridge, E. Heskey, M. Robins, F. Rolling, S. McMahon, S. Campbell, J. Willis

## HOW THEY LINE UP

LEEDS UNITED (from) A. Coloni, D. Preece, D. Kubicki, G. Hall, M. Stewart, N. Quinn, C. Russell, M. Gray, L. Howey, M. Bridges, S. Aston, M. Smith

LEEDS UNITED (from) K. Poole, C. Keller, S. Grayson, J. Walls, S. Walsh, S. Prior, M. Whittle, S. Taylor, N. Lennon, M. Izquierdo, S. Claridge, E. Heskey, M. Robins, F. Rolling, S. McMahon, S. Campbell, J. Willis

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## HOW THEY LINE UP

LEEDS UNITED (from) K. Poole, C.

FOOTBALL: INTRIGUING PERSONALITY CLASH AT THE DELL AS NEW MANAGER FACES TASK OF MOTIVATING LE TISSIER

# Souness returns with saintly intentions

BRIAN GLANVILLE



Souness at Southampton: will it work? Is Graeme Souness, as he assures us, a changed, domesticated character? Has the cloven hoof definitively disappeared? The acid test must surely be, how will he get on with Matthew Le Tissier? Will he show infinite patience, exemplary tolerance, as Dave Merrington, his predecessor, did last season, with such mixed success. Or will he be more of a Branfoot, a previous Southampton manager, who banished the maddening multitalented Le Tissier to the reserves, to the fury of Southampton fans who even wished the manager dead.

There could hardly be two more different people than Souness and Le Tissier. If at 43 Souness has changed, if his second marriage, as he says, has given him a new perspective on life, has shown him that there is life beyond football (something he never expected) then who was it, last season, who could have caused a riot in Istanbul?

Who was it on the occasion of one of those ferocious derby matches at Galatasaray, who took the Galatasaray flag and recklessly planted it in the middle of the field? Souness was managing Galatasaray and that gesture was widely seen as sealing his fate at the club. Impossible to imagine the serene Le Tissier ever doing something so provocative. Le Tissier's control of the ball is superb, his awareness exceptional, his right foot a laser, yet there are times when he just does not seem to care.

Souness has always cared intensely, as player, player-manager and now manager. It is hard to believe that he can now take adversity in his stride or that, on those days when Le Tissier's thoughts seem to be elsewhere, he will sit mute on the bench and let things take their course.



Souness has returned from a turbulent season in charge of Galatasaray, in Turkey, to manage perennial strugglers, Southampton

Both as player and manager Souness has been a paradox. His own talents as a footballer were exceptional. If there is really no such thing as a midfield player *per se*, a player capable of doing anything that an inside-forward or a wing-half could do, Souness like Johan Neeskens, of Holland, may have been the exception who proved the rule.

His own ball skills were unusual, his passing ever-intelligent, his shooting fierce and precise, his commitment beyond doubt. He could win tackles. Quite often, his tackles went too far.

In a League Cup final at Wembley between Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur in 1982, Souness brought down Tony Galvin, the Tottenham winger, after 20 minutes in a way that had the Tottenham fans shouting their anger. Souness went on to play a significant role in Liverpool's eventual success. Galvin limped.

Then, in a European Cup tie at Anfield, there was the abrasive Romanian who, clashing with Souness, departed with a fractured cheekbone. If Souness, however hard, was essentially a skilful, rational

player, then so is he an intelligent person, with a thoroughly alert mind. He has never underestimated himself. It was his Scotland colleague, Archie Gemmill, who said: "If he was a chocolate he'd eat himself." His nickname at Liverpool was Charlie, as in Champagne Charlie.

But with so much skill so much intelligence, why have there been so many episodes on and off the field?

Terry Yorath, of Leeds and Wales, no angel himself, remarked, after a Wales v Scotland match in 1979: "There's no friction on my part, but I

always seem to have trouble with him." Frank Worthington, that gifted maverick, called Souness "the nastiest, most ruthless man in soccer. Don Revie's bunch of assassins at Leeds were bad enough but there is a streak in Souness which puts him top of the list".

What mixed memories one has of him. Of Souness on a flight between Bucharest and Glasgow, after Rangers had played a European Cup tie against Steaua, telling a Scottish journalist who offended him that if he did not shut up he would "get a sore face, like

you got from Billy McNeill", the former Celtic manager. There are also memories of Souness, relaxed, charming and convivial, at a hotel bar in Genoa after playing for Sampdoria alongside Trevor Francis. Joining in, with his father-in-law, Francis, his wife and myself a chorus of *Underneath the Arches*.

Souness, like Francis, did well in Italy, showing the maturity to adjust to a peculiar way of life. Back he came to be player-manager of Rangers and to be sent off in his very first game in his native Edinburgh, for a wild tackle on a

## Liverpool ambition comes at a price

By PETER BALL

LIVERPOOL started the season on the wrong foot yesterday when they announced a loss of £4.8 million, the highest in the club's history. The deficit is accounted for by the purchases of Stan Collymore and Jason McAteer, who together cost the club £13 million.

The club's previous highest loss was £2.75 million in 1995. The wage bill was also up, from £10.4 million to £13.2 million. The loss apart, the figures testify to Liverpool's strength. Turnover has risen from £19.8 million to £27.4 million, a 50 per cent increase, with gate receipts up by £2.5 million.

The Riverside Stadium will be full for Liverpool's visit today, one of half a dozen mouth-watering games to start the season. Middlesbrough will unveil their summer signings, with Ravanelli partnering Barnby up front and Emerson joining Juninho in midfield.

There will be equal interest for Newcastle United's visit to Goodison Park, with Alan Shearer making his competitive debut against Everton. The choice by Kevin Keegan, the manager, of those around Shearer will be instructive. Asprilla is suspended, making Keegan's task more straightforward.

Keegan yesterday restored Robbie Elliott to the squad after his proposed transfer to Blackburn Rovers broke down. "Robbie is going to resign here on a two-year deal," Keegan said.

The absence of Ryan Giggs could open the way for Jordi Cruyff or provide a solution to Alex Ferguson's main problem, whether or not to play Karel Poborsky in the Manchester United team against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park ahead of the inform David Beckham. West Ham United will be without their record signing, Florian Rediucio, against Arsenal.

The Football Association yesterday punished Brighton for the riot at the Goldstone Ground last April. The Nationwide League side were ordered to play one match behind closed doors and will have three points deducted. Both penalties were suspended until the end of the season.

## Premiership profits from soaring interest rates

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

increased by the completion of the new North Stand.

With Cruyff and Poborsky joining Cantona and Giggs, unloading 35,000 season tickets was as simple as shelling peas. Finding another 20,000 day-trippers will not be difficult as the league champions and FA Cup holders defend their double crown.

More modestly, Wimbledon's reward for keeping their prices at £10 to £25 is a "better than last season" sale of more than 3,000 season tickets, dispelling the myth that nobody loves the Crazy Gang. Leeds have also kept faith with their 1995-96 figures and, despite a turbulent pre-season at Elland Road with takeovers and transfers, the supporters should be reappearing in similar numbers.

Mandy Ward, ticket office manager at Leeds, said: "I think people have been a bit anxious, with everything going on at the club, but it's all settled now. We've sold about 17,500 season tickets, which is on a par with this stage last season."

Bargain-hunters should look no further than Sheffield Wednesday, whose £8 match-day ticket — down from £8.50 last season — for a seat in the

Lower West Stand, behind the goal opposite the Kop, is the cheapest in the Premiership. Summer sales are still no better than 1995-96, about 10,000, and far removed from the 16,000 of two years ago.

Little change at Newcastle United, either, even in the throes of Shearermania, but only because St James' Park cannot accommodate any

more season ticket-holders, who make up 85 per cent of the ground's 36,000 capacity. Most Nationwide League clubs would kill for Newcastle's waiting list of thousands.

Elsewhere, interest is on the up and up, especially in London. West Ham United's influx of foreign talent has produced sales of 12,500 tickets, an increase of 2,500;

Chelsea's box office has seen an impressive jump of 50 per cent — "I think the arrival of Mr Vialli has something to do with it," a club spokesman said — and Tottenham Hotspur report another 15 per cent surge.

Many of White Hart Lane's 15,000 pre-season buyers have taken advantage of the club's new instalment scheme,

which eases the financial pain by spreading the payments over 12 months, while Stamford Bridge, at £40, possesses comfortably the most expensive seat in the Premiership.

Arsenal followers appear untroubled by the turmoil at Highbury — 18,500, a rise of more than 1,000, have committed themselves this season — and Middlesbrough, still in the grip of Ravanelli fever, have as good as sold out their 26,500 allocation, generating a large slice of the crop-haired Italian's £7 million transfer fee for Juventus.

Devotees of Leicester City appear unconvinced that their team can survive with business "brisk yet unexceptional", but those of Sunderland and Derby County, the other promoted clubs, are abuzz with optimism. Derby have doubled sales to 13,000 and Sunderland have sold 15,000, with only 4,000 tickets left for match days at Roker Park.

Spare a thought, though, for Nottingham Forest. With no European campaign to look forward to, the City Ground's figures are down — from 20,500 to 17,000 — with the start of the season only days away. A fickle lot, Forest folk.

## KEEGAN GAMBED £15 MILLION ON SHEARER. YOU CAN TOO FOR JUST A QUID!

Kevin reckons that £15m is a small price to pay to bring glory to Newcastle. You can place a spread bet from just £1 on how many days it will take Shearer to score his first Premiership goal. We predict between 7-9 days. If you fancy it will be longer, you win your stake x each additional day (you can also bet on it being less than 7 days). The more it goes your way, the more you win (the reverse applies when you lose).

Spread betting is far more flexible than fixed odds. Shearer apart, you can bet on Newcastle's performance, its points and goals. The same goes for all the Premier and Division One clubs. During live games we have a book on the number of corners, red/yellow cards, total goals scored and much more besides. The permutations are endless. Spread betting doesn't stop when play starts. Change your mind, change your bet. And best of all, we pay the betting tax for you too!

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NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL  
by WALTER GAMMIE

STEVENAGE Borough return from the High Court to the playing field today having gained nothing more than a moral victory to show for their legal struggle to win a place in the Football League.

Instead they must endure a nine-month struggle to repeat their success in the Vauxhall Conference before being able to present themselves again — armed this time with an A-grade ground certificate, which the work completed at Broadhall Way in the summer will allow them.

Stevenage's argument that the League's criteria for admission constituted restraint of trade won the sympathy of the court and a suggestion that they would have helped their cause by presenting their case earlier.

The judge's ruling, a 60-page document, landed on the desk of Peter Hunter, the chief executive of the Conference, this week, and the issue is certain to be top of the agenda when the League and the Conference hold the first of their regular meetings of the season, in September. "There are two main areas for concern," Hunter said. "One is the date for the completion of work; the other, the financial criteria.

The December 31 deadline was effectively a compromise between the League's wish to establish a deadline in August — before the start of the season — and the previous system, where clubs were inspected during the season and had until July 31 to do the work, having lodged a bond to its value.

The judge's highlighting of the absurdity of imposing

the championship again after being denied promotion because their grounds were not ready. Altrincham are still the only team to win the Conference in successive years. In Stevenage's favour, they have managed to retain most of their championship-winning squad, including Barry Hayles, who led the Conference goalcharts with 29.

Rushden and Diamonds will be looking to carry on their roll of success after their promotion from the former Beazer Homes, now Dr Martens, League. They will have to wait to achieve their A grading until the final stage of work in progress at Nene Park pushes their capacity to the minimum 6,000.

"We expect that one of the clubs with an A grade will take title, but in this game you never know," Hunter said.

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